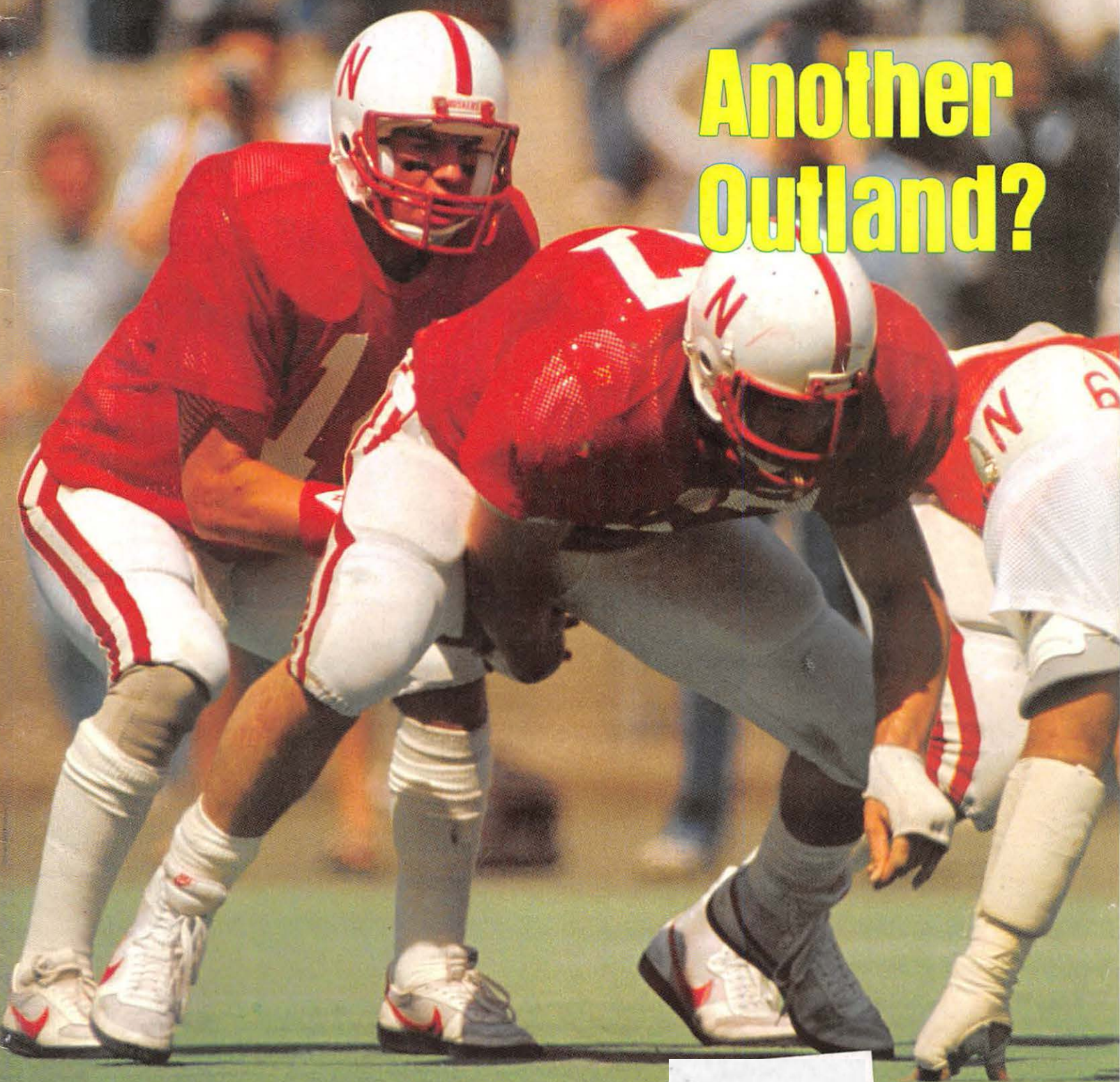


Huskers Illustrated

JULY, 1984 \$2.95

Another Outland?



review



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Huskies Illustrated



59

Noonan (Finally) Grows Up 12

He was tall and lean in high school, but he's become a giant of the Big Eight at NU.

spring's fancy footwork 16

While Sundberg and others were working things out at quarterback, the Huskies unveiled a fleet of fleet I-backs in spring finale.

can Mark make it 4? 22

Rimington was the nation's top lineman two years in a row, then Steinkuhler last fall. Now it's time for Traynowicz to do his thing.

Morrow finds perseverance pays 28

From the time he passed out on his first day as a Husker until this spring, he refused to give up on the dream of becoming a Nebraska starter.

Huskies looking for fourth 34

Nebraska's an early favorite to win another Big Eight football title. Here's a complete preview of the 1984 league race, with a two-page spread on each team.

pressure's on the rookies 52

The knee injury to Mike Knox has forced Parsons, Munford and Forch into earlier-than-expected key roles at linebacker.

don't steal on Harrison! 59

Nebraska's freshman southpaw has made it tough on enemy baserunners this spring.

Letters 6

Potpourri 8

Photospread 32

On the cover

After Dave Rimington won two straight Outland Trophies at Nebraska, folks figured Dean Steinkuhler would not stand a chance to keep the honor in Lincoln. He did. Now Husker coaches are talking about their latest destroyer on the offensive line — Mark Traynowicz. Can he make it four in a row at NU? Randy Hampton caught the big center in action during the spring game.

in the next issue...

Who will the Huskies be facing outside the Big Eight next fall, and will the challenge be too much to expect another run at the elusive national title? You'll get a complete report on those non-conference foes, plus more features on NU players.

Letters



Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I must disagree with a lot of Nebraska fans and agree with Tom Osborne's decision to go for the national championship and Orange Bowl win. Living in Illinois and being a true Nebraska fan is tough because of all the ribbing you must take. But Tom Osborne's decision showed a lot of guts and he has gained the respect of a lot more people by trying to go for the two points and winning the national championship uncontested, instead of kicking the extra point and winning it the cheapest way possible.

Jeff Kraeger
Palatine, IL

EDITOR'S NOTE — You're obviously not the only one from Illinois who feels that way. The Cornhuskers ranked No. 1 in the *Chicago Tribune's* post-season reader's poll. Nebraska was the people's choice from the beginning of the season to the end.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I feel that we are losing one of our greatest sports heroes this year, not Rozier, Fryar or even Turner Gill. But we are losing Lyell Bremser. All I can say is: man, woman and child, we're all going to miss you.

Andy McQuistan (12)
Pender, NE

EDITOR'S NOTE — Bremser's charismatic appeal clearly extended to men, women and children.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I just thought that I would write in and tell you what I think about Nebraska football, but that is what everyone else does. So I will talk about the cheerleaders. I thought that they did an excellent job this year. Besides, the games would be boring without them, like when you guys beat other teams as bad as you did this year.

Jeff Ferron
Hebron, NE

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

In response to letters by Mr. Don DuTeau and Mr. Mark Glass, I am writing this letter:

I could not believe what I read. I knew at the start of the fourth quarter that Nebraska would come back. I also knew, at the time, that Nebraska would go for two points, as did every other true Husker fan. To most fans, the team, and I, a tie would mean no more than a loss. Sure, "We must live with this in our minds," but at least everyone knows that Nebraska tried to win the national championship outright, instead of winning it very cheaply! This is the one quality that not only makes Nebraska better, but also different from any other college in the United States. I would like to thank the football

team and the coaching staff for another winning season. I am looking forward to next year.

Sincerely yours,
Dana Brown
Harlingen, TX

P.S. My motto is: It is better to try and fail than not to try at all!

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I am 12 years old and a very big Husker fan. After I read the two letters in your April issue not accepting Tom Osborne's decision to go for the win, it was my turn to disagree. By going for the win Tom showed what I think the game of football is about, trying to win.

Eric Langhorst
Howells, NE

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I have been a Cornhusker fan for a few years now and first of all would like to congratulate the 1983 football team on a great season.

After the sick feeling disappeared following the Orange Bowl, I did some thinking and have drawn this conclusion. I commend Coach Osborne on his gutsy decision. Calls such as this make college sports the most exciting of all spectator sports.

Personally, I find much more satisfaction hearing people say Nebraska was still the best team this year than I would having to defend them for years to come had they gone for the tie and won the championship.

A national championship won by going for a tie would not have been characteristic of the greatest team in college history.

One game does not a season make. Nebraska was, in my mind, the best team in 1983. A national championship was deserving but is not needed to prove to me or most open-minded people who was No. 1.

Darren Eurich
Ft. Morgan, CO

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

It was with disgust that I read this section of your April issue. I could not believe that Mark Glass and Don M. DuTeau could call themselves fans and think that we should have kicked for the tie in the Orange Bowl. I would have lost most of my respect for this team and Coach Osborne if we would have gone for the tie. If the Huskers had tied and I had been voting, I would not have put the Huskers at the head of the list. I would not have voted for a team that tried to take the national championship like a coward. If there would have been a tie, Auburn would have topped the list in my book.

Nebraska is a team of class and character, just like every team in the Big Eight is. I doubt if any team in our conference would have gone for the tie. That includes the CU Buffaloes. Miami may have won

If you have questions or comments, you may write the BIG RED MAILBAG, Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501.

the game, but the staff of *The Denver Post* was impressed with Osborne's call and had respect for the Huskers. Even "The Peak," a writer who answers letters about sports in a usually mocking way, praised the Big Red. All season long, this writer constantly attacked the Huskers and their winning ways. But in the end, he respected them.

It would have been degrading to the University and the team if they had tied a no-class team like Miami and Howard Schnellenberger. We will win a championship one of these years, just be patient. But when it comes, I want to win it in style by beating an opponent (preferably the 'Canes). I trust that most Husker fans feel the same way.

A true BIG RED fanatic,
Bob Culwell
Englewood, CO

EDITOR'S NOTE — Just as surely as the Cornhuskers will win that national title, some Colorado athletes will help them do it. As for the letter from Mark Glass, don't judge him so harshly...read on.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

After reading your reply to my letter in the April issue, there is something I want to say. I wish to apologize to Coach Osborne for what I wrote. If that is the way the players and coaches wanted it, then it is fine with me. The national championship was something that I wanted more for the players, especially the seniors, than for myself. As many of the people wrote, they always will be No. 1 in our hearts. I wish them all luck in their future years.

Mark Glass
Ebensburg, PA

EDITOR'S NOTE — Well said, Mark.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I read in the newspaper that Jack Moore was killed in an airplane crash. What a great basketball player he was for the Cornhuskers! Could you provide more information about the crash and his career at Nebraska?

Howard Porter
Alamosa, CO

EDITOR'S NOTE — Your questions are answered in the "Potpourri" section of the last *Huskies Illustrated*.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

Georgia is a long way from Huskerland, but reading every issue of your fine magazine brings home a little closer. I think the people in the South finally came to the realization that there is football somewhere besides the Southeast Conference.

I was particularly interested in your April 1984 issue which had the story on the Husker Giant Killer of 1958. I was broadcasting the games for the Cornhusker network and those two games had to rank as my all-time broadcasting thrills in a career that

spanned some 14 years...If my memory serves me correctly, Bob Harry was the tallest man on the Husker roster at 6-6, and I think Willie Fitzpatrick was about 6-5.

The key to the whole game seemed to be when Harry hit a soft jump shot from the top of the key hole. KU coach Dick Harp elected to put Chamberlain man-to-man on Harry right from the start of the game. The patience of the Husker offense that night was unbelievable...they took only the high-percentage shots under the hoop.

The picture of the action on the court was interesting, in that I think I can find myself up on "press row." Would there be any chance of getting a copy of that picture? I would be more than happy to pay for it.

You were right about that victory being sweet...it was very embarrassing to walk out of the Jayhawks' home base in Lawrence after that humiliating 102-46 loss.

After beating K-State the following game, the Huskers' dream bubble was burst in Boulder, when the Buffaloes dumped the Nebraskans. Except for some questionable time-keeping, according to (NU Coach Jerry) Bush, the Huskers could have come out of Boulder with some sort of national ranking...but it was not to be.

Thanks again for your beautiful magazine.
Bob Horstman
College Park, GA

EDITOR'S NOTE — Glad you enjoyed the memories, and I know the story must have been special to you because of your involvement. The photos used in the story were the private property of one of our readers and are very valuable. However, we'll pass along your request and see what happens.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

Both Lombardi of the Green Bay Packers and Grant of the Minnesota Vikings solved a problem Tom Osborne has mentioned. It is his defensive backs against good passers to fine receivers.

They took, in each case, a tall, fast, quick, offensive end or back and made him a defensive back. In each case, they became stars. You could have a couple of guys trained for the job, which would surprise teams such as Iowa State, Kansas State, and yes, Miami.

I had seen hundreds of games and noted those who could stop a good passing attack. So for what it's worth, Go Big Red in '84.

Glenn Bennett
Hot Springs Vlg., AR

Just as surely
as the Cornhus-
kers will win
that national
title, some Col-
orado athletes
will help them
do it.



Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders presents the honored stolen base to the honored base stealer, record-setter Scott Hooper, who set new standards in the Big Eight and at NU.

Inside Husker sports

tired bones

Third baseman Scott Hooper shattered the Big Eight record for stolen bases in a season, a notable accomplishment that was not without hazards. "My bones are getting tired, but that's natural," said the senior from Park Forest, Ill. "We all knew it was going to be a long season."

Hooper tied the conference record of 46, set by Iowa State's Jim Walewander last season, by stealing eight bases in a double-header sweep of Northwestern (Iowa), then broke the record with a stolen base against Creighton at Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium.

His goal before the season began was to steal at least 40 bases. According to Nebraska head baseball Coach John Sanders, Hooper deserves the confer-

ence record. "'Hoop' has worked hard for it," Sanders said.

Bill Hendricks was the last Cornhusker to hit a home run this season, getting his first as a pinch hitter against Creighton. The senior from Lincoln lined the ball to the opposite field with Bill McGuire at second base and Rich King at first.

"All I was thinking about was driving in the guy from second," said Hendricks. "I hadn't had an RBI in a long time."

If he could have played in more games against Creighton, that probably wouldn't have been a problem. Hendricks finished his career 12-for-26 in nine games against the Bluejays, with one double, two triples, and three home runs, all of which sailed out of Rosenblatt Stadium.

"I like it here," he said.

This season's home run was such a surprise that King had returned to first base to tag up, and Hendricks nearly collided with him. "I wouldn't have talked to Joe Scherger (NU first base coach) for a week," said Hendricks. "I hate running the bases anyway."

Nebraska and Oklahoma went into the first game of their Big Eight series with two of the top-ranked pitching staffs in the nation. The Cornhuskers won that opener 27-16. "This place is a launching pad. You've got to have big, strong people to play here," Sanders said of the Sooners' Mitchell Field.

Of the 34 base hits in the game, 15 went for extra bases. Four of those were home runs, including grand slams by Nebraska's Dave Turney and Oklahoma's Jay Searcy. Turney, who also doubled, drove in six runs. NU's Mike Duncan hit his 10th home run of the season and drove in four runs.

Every Cornhusker starter got at least one hit, scored at least one run, and batted in at least one run. Every batter on both teams crossed home plate at least once. Oklahoma's defense committed eight errors, and the Sooner pitchers walked 11.

Mark Davis hit a dramatic, three-run home run in the top of the eighth inning of the third game of the Oklahoma series to give Nebraska a 4-2 victory and Sanders' 300th career win.

Davis had two strikes when he hit the home run, his fifth of the season. The first three times he batted during the game, he struck out. "We had to go with the percentages," Sanders said of the decision to let Davis bat.

Nebraska's first baseball recruit of the spring was Terry Green, a high school shortstop from Stringtown, Okla. Green, the nephew of Kansas City Royals' shortstop U.L. Washington, is included on *Baseball America* newspaper's list of the top 25 high school prospects in the country and *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper's "Super 20" high school players.

Three other recruits, announced at about the same time, were junior college transfers. They included pitchers Bill Mulligan and Brett Beede and infielder-outfielder Larry Mims.

Mulligan and Mims, who played last season



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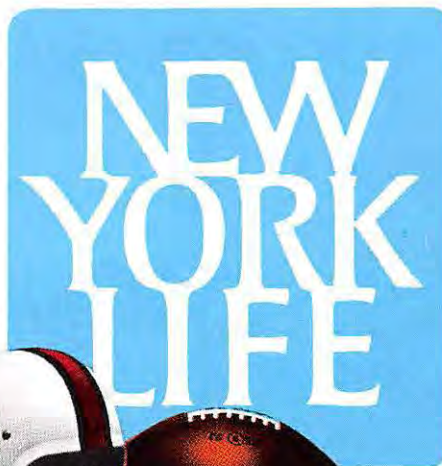
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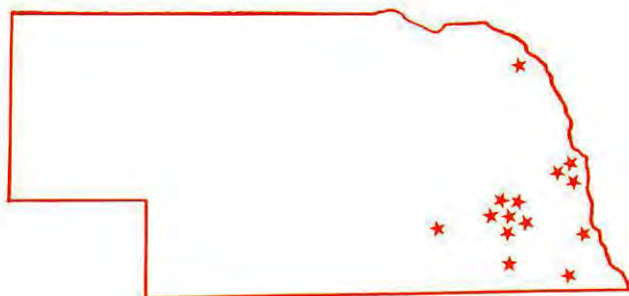
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If nothing else, they can afford lessons! A pair of Outland-Lombardi winners hit the links, with Dave Rimington behind the wheel of the golf cart and Dean Steinkuhler along for the ride. Steinkuhler recently signed a lucrative contract with the Houston Oilers, while Rimington will enter his second NFL season this summer with Cincinnati.

for Indian Hills Community College in Centerville, Iowa, both were selected by the New York Mets in major league baseball's 1984 January draft.

Mulligan, a 5-11, 185-pound left-hander out of Omaha Paul VI High School, was the 16th player picked by the Mets in the draft's regular phase. Mims, 5-6 and 160 pounds, was the Mets' first pick in the draft's secondary phase, for players previously drafted but unsigned. He was chosen as a second baseman but can play anywhere in the infield or outfield.

Beede, a 6-0, 180-pound undrafted right-hander from Plymouth, N.H., led Allen County Community College in Iola, Kan., to the national junior college world series a year ago.

"They're all good ones," Sanders said of his recruits....

leaping Logan

Nebraska basketball coach Moe Iba signed his fourth recruit to a letter-of-intent in early May. Demetrius Buchanan, a 6-foot-3 guard from College of the Sequoias in Visalia, Calif., announced he would become a Cornhusker after considering offers from San Jose State, Weber State and Oregon.

Buchanan, who's from South Bend, Ind., averaged 14 points and six rebounds per game and was selected the Most Valuable Player in the Central Valley Conference. An outstanding jump-

er, he finished second on his team in rebounding. "He's definitely a Division I player," said his coach, Tom Gilcrest. "He has fine all-around ability."

Buchanan joins two other junior college transfers and Omaha Millard South High School guard Joel Sealer in the Cornhuskers' recruiting class.

Chris Logan, a 6-5 forward from Antelope Valley Community College in Lancaster, Calif., and Harvey Marshall, a 6-3 guard from Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo., are the Nebraska's other recruits.

NU assistant coach Tom Baack became interested in Logan after watching him earn an award as the most valuable player in a 16-team tournament in Riverside, Calif. Logan is an exceptional athlete, having long jumped 23-11, high jumped 6-10 and run the 200 meters in :22.3.

"He has a 41-inch vertical jump, and he can take off six inches in front of the free throw line and dunk the ball," said Antelope Valley head coach Bob Murray. "He's a Louisville-type player, very exciting, but very unselfish. I'll be disappointed if he doesn't step right in and play. He can play any style."

Logan picked Nebraska after visiting Weber State and Brigham Young.

A native of Natchez, Miss., Logan began his college career at Texas Southern. He left school, however, and enrolled a year later at Antelope Valley, where he averaged 15 points and 13.9 rebounds per game last season.

He shot 54 percent from the field and was credited with 140 assists. In a game against Los Angeles Mission College, he had 25 rebounds, 18 of them off the offensive boards.

"My philosophy is the total game. I love the all-around game," said Logan. "When I look at a newspaper, I want to see how many rebounds a guy gets or how many blocked shots. Rebounding, defense and passing take a lot of hard work. Points? I feel like anybody can score."

Anybody can score, but not like Marshall, a 6-3 guard who pumped in 97 points in the National Junior College Tournament at Hutchinson, Kan., to earn first-team all-tournament recognition.

Marshall, who averaged 23 points per game during the regular season, scored 25, 30, 29 and 13 in the tournament as Northeastern finished eighth, with a 35-5 season record. He was the second leading scorer and No. 10 rebounder in the tourney. "We think Harvey gives us what we needed; a little bigger guard than we've been playing and a shooter who can score outside and around the basket," Iba said.

Marshall, who went to high school in Jackson, Tenn., "can really shoot the ball," said Lowell Rounph, his coach at Northeastern.

He visited Wyoming and Colorado and cancelled trips to Missouri and Tennessee-Chattanooga before signing a letter of intent with Nebraska.

fifth trying for a sixth

Nebraska's five-time defending national cham-

pion gymnastics team was seeded fifth going into the NCAA Championships at Los Angeles in early April. Unfortunately for the Cornhuskers, the seeding was prophetic. Nebraska finished fifth and failed to qualify for the team finals, which included host UCLA, Penn State and Ohio State.

"We just choked under pressure," said NU Coach Francis Allen, who's never been one to mince words. "If we were ever going to drop the ball, we knew where it was going to be. We dropped the ball on pommel horse.

"I didn't see the fat lady after pommel horse, but I think she was warming up her vocal chords."

The Cornhuskers went into the event in first place and left it in eighth place. The only bright spot in the pommel horse competition was a 9.65 by Frank Hibbitts, who qualified for the individual finals but failed to place.

Chris Riegel finished fourth in the all-around competition with 113.95 points. In the individual finals, Riegel won the vault with a 10.0. He was third in the floor exercise (9.60), third in the parallel bars (9.40) and fifth in the high bar (9.60). Jim Mikus was sixth in both the floor ex (9.10) and high bar (9.50), and he tied for fifth in the parallel bars (9.25).

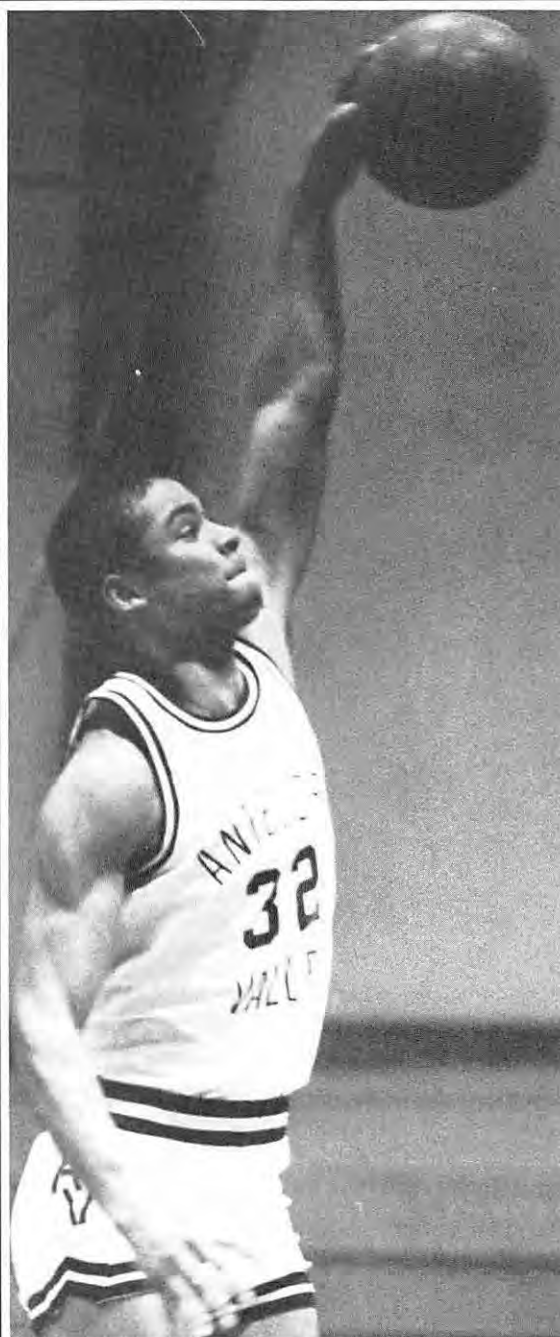
Riegel survived a near drowning only hours before winning his second NCAA vaulting title. He got caught in a riptide while swimming in the afternoon at Hermosa Beach. "I'm a good swimmer, but I got caught out there for about 45 minutes," he said. "The riptide kept shooting me out farther and farther. It was coming in about every five seconds. I was out about 200 yards."

NU teammate Brandon Hull was with Riegel but couldn't see or hear him. When Hull finally spotted Riegel, he attempted to rescue him but had to give up and swim to shore, where he watched while a lifeguard saved Riegel. "My whole body was cramped, but I kept telling myself not to panic," said Riegel, who received a standing ovation from a Pauley Pavilion audience of 5,258 that night for his 10 in the vault.

UCLA won the team title but came up short in its attempt to break Nebraska's meet scoring record when Mitch Gaylord fell off the high bar as the last competitor in the last event. "Physically, we were prepared to challenge UCLA. We just didn't perform," said Allen. "We tried too hard. We freaked out."

Allen wasted no time in hitting the recruiting trail and soon landed a pair of outstanding athletes, Kevin Davis from Lithonia, Ga., and Mike Epperson, from Bartlesville, Okla.

The Cornhuskers lured Epperson away from Oklahoma, the 1984 Big Eight Conference champion, and UCLA. Epperson also visited Ohio State and Arizona State. "Based on routine maturity, there's no better all-arounder in the country," Allen said. "He's the type of gymnast we're accustomed to. He's another (Jim) Hartung. He's a good student and comes from a good family.



Husker basketball recruits (left) Chris Logan and (right) Harvey Marshall.

He can be a trend-setter for Nebraska."

Nebraska may yet become the permanent home of the NCAA men's gymnastics championships. According to Jerry Miles, director of the NCAA men's championships: "We've moved the NCAA to two good sites after three record-breaking years at Nebraska, and there's no comparison. I'll be honest; I still have a little concern about the idea, but I also think the NCAA has to give Nebraska a real serious look at being the permanent site."

You could probably count on one finger the number of defensive linemen at the University of Nebraska who were able to play midget football until they became too old.

With weight restrictions designed to keep injury potential at a minimum on that young level of competition, players with major college potential as linemen rarely make it one year, let alone three, because of their size.

Excessive size on the midget football level was never a problem for Danny Noonan.

That may seem rather difficult to believe now, looking at the 6-foot-4, 265-pound Husker freshman from Lincoln Northeast High School, but it's a fact. Most teenage boys go through their high school days worrying about acne and girls. Noonan worried mostly about his weight...or lack of it.

An accomplished junior high wrestler, he even quit that sport because he thought it might hinder his hopes of gaining the weight he wanted so badly.

He ate and he ate and he ate. "Our grocery bills would be proof of that," Noonan admits now. But still, he couldn't gain weight.

"Weight was a big concern for me," he said. "I wrestled at 167 pounds as a ninth-grader and placed second in the city. I went out for the wrestling team as a sophomore, but I sweated so much in two days that I quit. I didn't mind the work, but I knew I was never going to gain weight like that."

As a junior in high school, he blossomed to a respectable 216-pounds over the winter not bad for someone of that age on a 6-4 frame.

Still, the gain was something of a temporary nature. By the time he got through with his summer workouts, and football season came around, he was back down to 205 pounds.

"I didn't know what it was," Noonan said. "It was frustrating to not be able to gain any weight. I was really trying hard to gain. I was working hard on the weights and still eating all the time."

As it turned out, the key to Noonan's weight was the wait.

And the weight, along with his rapid physical development and maturity, were a couple of reasons that Noonan didn't have to wait long to get his first taste of varsity competition at Nebraska.

When nagging injuries to seniors Mike Keeler and Doug Herrmann forced the issue, Noonan was in the right spot at the right time, and looking more and more like a defensive tackle should.

He was one of three Husker freshman asked to move to the varsity locker room following the conclusion of another unbeaten junior varsity season. But the biggest surprise was Noonan's joining

freshman linebackers Marc Munford and Kevin Parsons on the traveling squad for the Big Eight championship game at Norman, Okla.

NU defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said at the time that Noonan was "as far along at this stage as any defensive lineman we've ever had here."

McBride said Noonan, Parsons and Munford all picked up defenses well. "They study as much film as any of our players, they ask questions and they play with a lot of confidence for being so young."

At the time, Noonan had "bulked up" to 235-pounds, with an ultimate goal of 260.

Following spring ball, Noonan finds himself tipping the scales at a solid 265 pounds, sharing second team duties at left defensive tackle with Mike Zierke behind Chris Spachman. He's in the thick of the battle for considerable playing time when Nebraska opens its season against Wyoming, Sept. 8 in Lincoln.

about it (the weight)," Noonan said. "I really didn't believe him at the time. I wanted to gain as much as I could, but he said it would come once I got into the routine. I didn't think it would ever come."

After Northeast dropped a Class A state playoff championship game to Omaha Westside, his weight dropped even more. He stepped on a scale, put the weight at 200, and "it didn't even move," he said.

Nevertheless, whenever the Nebraska coaches asked him how much he weighed, he told them "215 pounds. I kept telling them that until I really did weigh 215."

Noonan was surprised how fast the weight did come after he graduated from Northeast. He finally had gotten up to 220 for the first time in his life.

"I gained another 10 pounds before the Shrine Bowl game (to 230), and it's kept coming ever since," he said. "I don't know what it was. I think maybe my metabolism just slowed down once I matured a little

Noonan Took Time Up, But He's A Big

As a high school athlete, the Lincoln Northeast youngster was tall and lean. As a Nebraska U. defensive tackle who played last year as a freshman, he's tall and mean and still growing.

By Chuck Sinclair

As a lean high school senior, Noonan never imagined anything like that might happen so early.

McBride sensed that Noonan might be worrying too much about his weight when the Husker coaches were recruiting him during a senior high school season in which he earned Super-State status as a defensive tackle.

"Coach McBride said not to worry

bit. The training table helps, too."

There's no question of Noonan's maturity now, a far cry from the youngster who spent his midget football days playing for the Firefighter's A and B teams.

"I thought football was fun then, but not really anything that I'd ever become so involved with," Noonan said.

That's somewhat ironic since few people had become as involved as Noonan

was in midget football.

For three years in a row he was the top candy seller in the league fundraiser. One year he collected somewhere in the vicinity of \$1,100 for his efforts.

Midget football may have been simply a fun proposition for Noonan, but despite his theory — the realization that football would become a major part of his life didn't set in until midway through high school — Firefighters' coach Ron Peery thought he had a good one on his hands from the start.

"He wasn't a very big kid," said Peery, now an investigator for the Lincoln Fire Department. "He was tall, but not with much weight on him. He never did get too close to the weight limit. He stayed about 10 pounds under his last year."

It was the attitude, along with his natural ability that Peery found so refreshing, the same type of attitude that accounted for the hustle during fundraising.

"I think he was probably just the most coachable kid you could ever have in a lifetime," Peery said. "Whatever you wanted, he'd do it. We had a few plays where we'd pull the guards, and he just loved to pull. He'd pull, go down the line

Growing Boy Now!

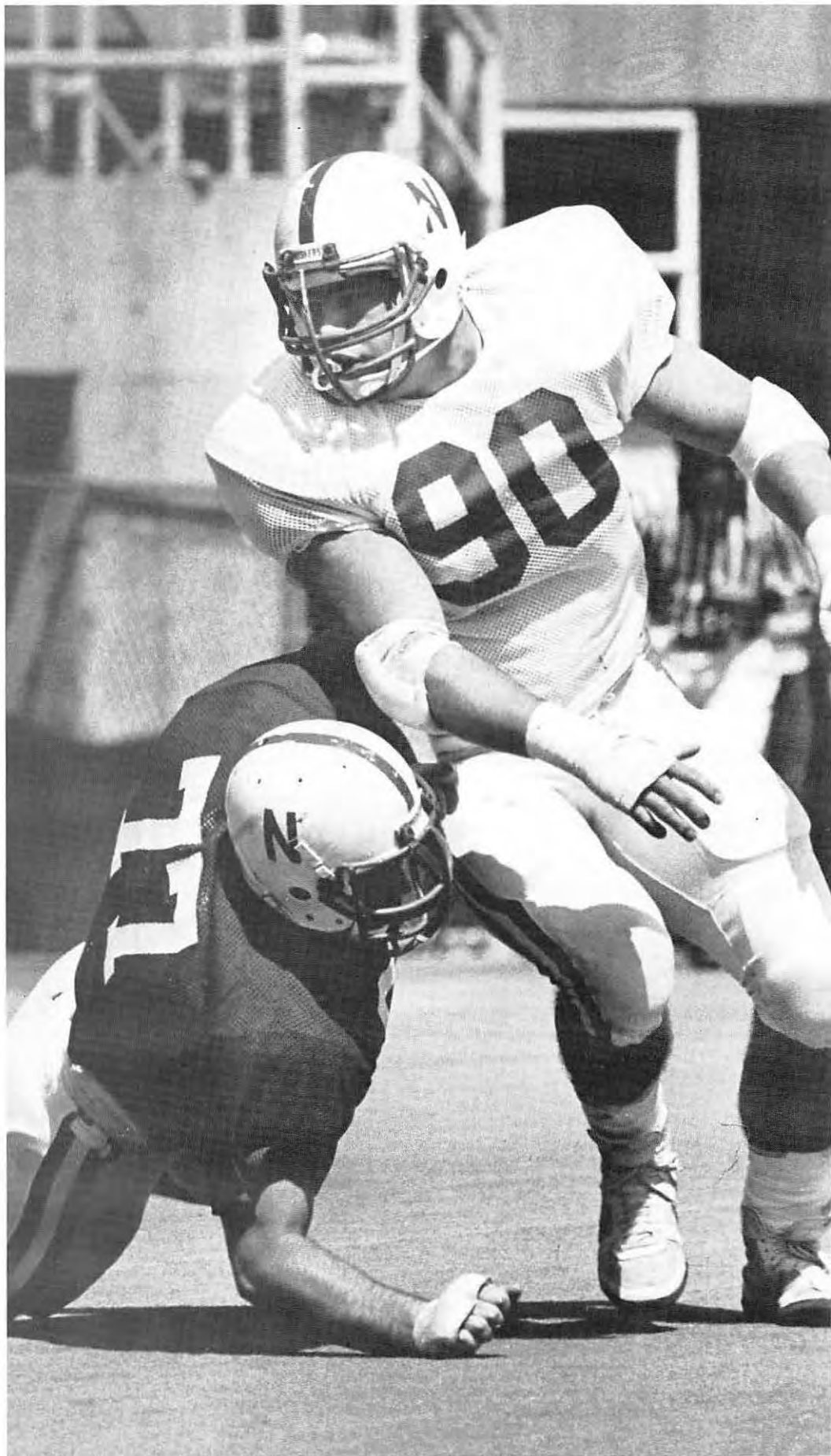
and just destroy the end. When we wanted to pull the other way, we'd trade sides and move him over there."

As much as Noonan enjoyed pulling and leading the play to the outside, Peery said there was one thing he wanted worse. "He always wanted to be a running back. He always thought he could be one. Shoot, when you've got somebody who pulls that good, why would you do something like that?"

He was no slouch on defense either, playing noseguard and dealing the opponents fits with his quickness. "Nobody could stay with him to stop him," Peery said.

Despite his early success, he wasn't all that impressive as a freshman, or even as a sophomore. Pneumonia and an ankle in-

Danny Noonan (90) throws his weight around in the spring game against Tom Morrow (see feature on Morrow beginning on Page 28).



jury slowed his progress as a sophomore in high school, but ironically, the ankle could be one of the big reasons that Noonan really began to develop as a player.

"Since I couldn't play much because of the injury, I started lifting pretty hard," Noonan said. "That really helped. I worked really hard during the summer before my junior year. I thought I could be on the varsity for sure, and hopefully play a lot."

Noonan remembers his first varsity football start like it was yesterday. Fortunately, his high school coach Bob Els doesn't.

"The kid in front of me broke his hand, so I started our first game of the season against Omaha Central," Noonan said. "We got killed something like 41-7. It was terrible. I was terrible. I remember watching the films of that. College football was pretty far from my mind at that point."

Els, who said Noonan wasn't the only one who "was terrible" in the Central game, remembers a more impressive start better.

"About midway through the season, our middle guard got injured and we put Danny in there," Els said. "That was all she took."

Noonan made 17 tackles in that particular start against Omaha Benson, from a position he hadn't seen since his fun days of midget football. He continued to improve, and gained All-City recognition by the time the season ended.

He also gained the attention of college recruiters, and the advice from his prep coach that he would need to improve on his 4.9 speed to play major college football.

"For a kid that size, 4.9 really wasn't all that bad," Els said, "not for a 6-4 down lineman. But when you look at college players on the whole, you need to be able to run and have the strength and size to go with it."

Noonan hit the weights again, and improved his speed in the process. He also attended the Husker Football Camp in the summer, where head coach Tom Osborne and McBride talked to him about the possibility of playing for Nebraska.

"That helped me a lot," Noonan said. "They knew I wasn't very big, but they thought I had the potential to do well. It just made me want to work harder."

He worked harder. Els noticed his dedication both on and off the field.

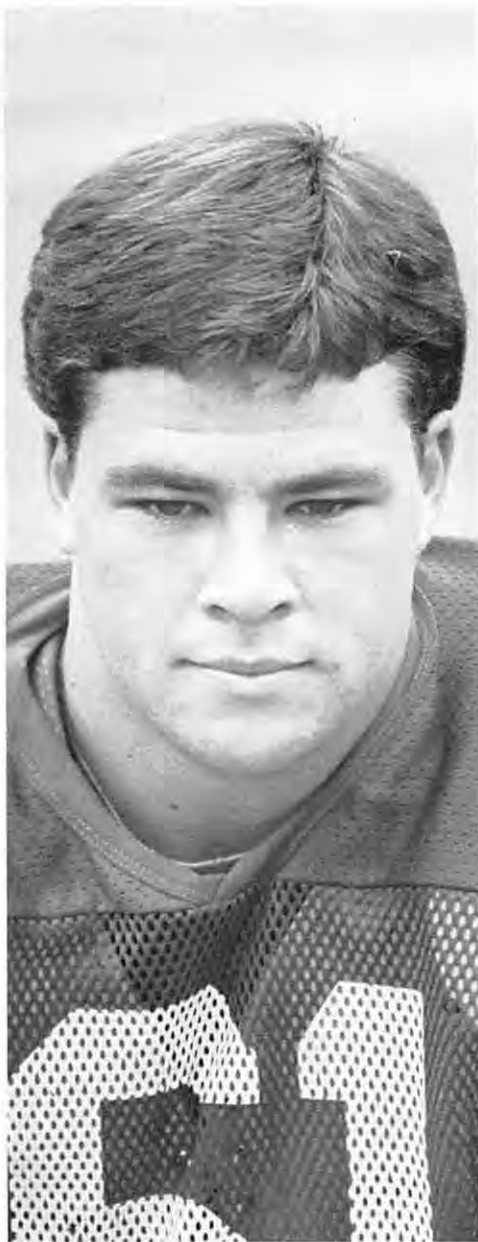
"I don't know what turned him onto the weights so much," Els said. "But he hit them hard. It could have been his own motivation. He always practiced well for us. He's not just a game player, although as well as he practiced, he really shone during the games."

From the appearances of the spring game, that may be holding true to form. Noonan was pleased with his effort on the second defensive unit in the Red-White

spring game.

"I thought I had my best scrimmage of the spring in the Red-White game," Noonan said.

Noonan registered a pair of quarterback sacks in the White's 35-13 loss to the Red's. "Those are what I prize the most...quarterback sacks. They're few and far between. When you get them...you enjoy them."



Noonan

"I started out (the spring) kind of slow, but I've always been that way," Noonan said. "It took me awhile to get back into football again after three months off. And playing in the spring was a little different, too."

After the surprise finish of the fall season in which Noonan made the Oklahoma tra-

vel roster and also went to the Orange Bowl, spring ball couldn't come soon enough.

"I wish we could have started right away," he said. "I was feeling good. I was rolling."

As he thinks back to his senior year in high school, what's happening to him now was beyond comprehension. "I didn't think anything like that could happen. I thought I would probably redshirt, and hopefully get to suit up for just one home game. When I got to suit up for Oklahoma, I couldn't believe it," he said. "It didn't matter that I didn't play. Just being there was enough. It felt so good coming back on the plane. I got pretty excited on the sidelines. Freshmen aren't in a position like that very often at Nebraska."

Noonan did get some varsity playing time, most of it during the latter stages of the Kansas game.

The elevation to the varsity and experience that went with it was an obvious plus for Noonan to carry into spring ball. "I knew what to expect and how to act around Coach McBride. I knew what to say and what not to say. And it was good to go with the older guys. You can learn a lot from them."

"What I didn't know about was the intensity of spring ball. That really surprised me. In fall camp you would go a few days with just helmets, then pads. In spring, we went at it right away, and we went at it hard."

Noonan had impressed his freshman coaches from the start of fall camp with his dedication and abilities. He attributes part of his early fall success to the conditioning he received in conjunction with the Shrine Bowl game.

"The Shrine Bowl helped me out a lot as far as getting prepared for fall camp," Noonan said. "During Shrine camp we practiced three times a day, and then only twice at Nebraska. I thought that was great. It was like I was finally getting some rest. It really helped me get off to a good start."

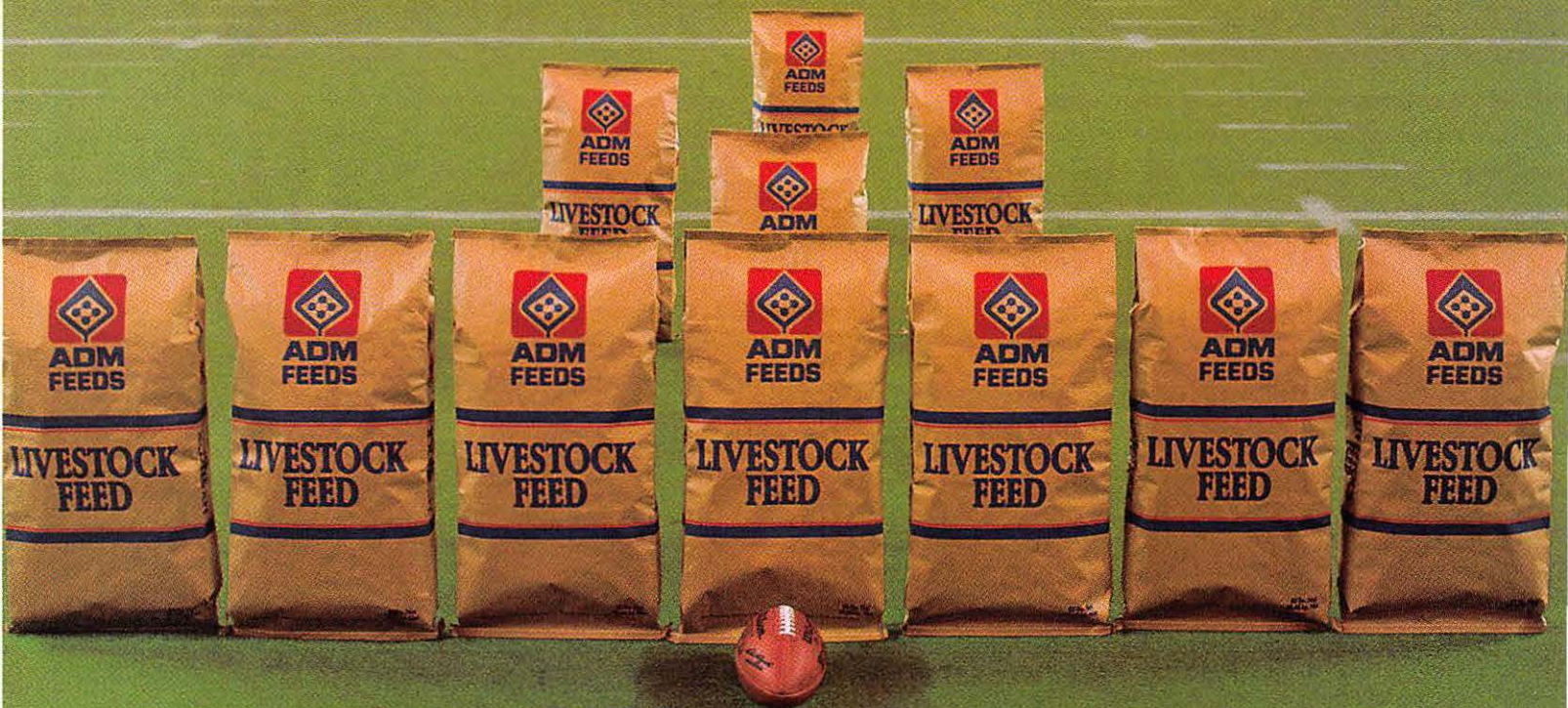
Noonan feels another good start is imperative for his chances of success in the fall. With the caliber of players returning in the defensive line, Noonan knows he'll have to start strong.

"It seems like most of the honors have gone to the offensive lineman in the past few years, but I think that might change in the next few years," Noonan said. "With guys like (Chris) Spachman, (Jim) Skow and (Rob) Stuckey, I think we have a lot better linemen than we've had in quite a few years."

That, Noonan figures, should ultimately help Nebraska reach its goal. "Make it four in '84, that's what they're saying now," Noonan said referring to Nebraska's going after its fourth straight conference crown. That would be great...but No. I would be even better."



NOBODY PUTS A BETTER TEAM ON
THE FIELD THAN ADM FEEDS.



EXCEPT MAYBE NEBRASKA.





Shane Swanson (17) finds the Husker offensive line can still do the job as he makes yardage in the Red-White spring game.

While the Red team, which included the No. 1 offensive and defensive units, threatened the White team's goal line at the south end of Memorial Stadium midway through the second period in Nebraska's annual spring intrasquad football game, two familiar figures trotted across the field at the north 35-yard line.

During the time it took them to get from the east sideline to the west sideline, the attention of most of the 23,119 fans in the audience was diverted from the action at the south end. For that brief instant, Mike Rozier and Turner Gill were again at center stage.

Soon after Rozier and Gill reached the west sideline, where the White team was exhorting its defense to dig in against the Reds, they were assaulted by young autograph seekers, waving programs and swarming along the fence that separated the sideline from the running track.

Such images are common during Nebraska's spring intrasquad games, particularly those played on clear, but autumn cool, days in late April. The scrimmage becomes secondary for many of those in attendance, the autograph seekers, the families who have come to visit their sons on the team, those just looking to pass the time on a pleasant spring afternoon.

That the Reds defeated the Whites 35-13 in the 35th annual spring contest at Nebraska carries little importance. The coaches are concerned more with individual performance than the game's outcome, while the fans come for a preview of Saturday's heroes, and once satisfied, they leave.

If the reserves win, the final scrimmage of spring drills takes on significance. If

New Husker Cast Feet In Backfield As

Smith sets spring game rushing record, but he's followed closely by young backs Miles and DuBose in 35-13 frolic before millionaire grads and relaxed fans.

By Mike Babcock

not, there are more important things to be considered.

Because spring games are only informally formal, this year's second quarter was 20 minutes long instead of 15. And when first-team quarterback Craig Sundberg was helped off the field with a sore ankle, halfway through the extended second period, Travis Turner, who had been directing the White team, switched jerseys.

Rozier and Gill, of course, were among the constants on this particular Saturday. The acknowledgement of their departure to professional football, Rozier to the Pittsburgh Maulers of the USFL, Gill to the Montreal Concordes of the Canadian League, and the question of how they were to be replaced in the fall, shaded the entire

spring.

The team which will represent Nebraska as it attempts to win a fourth consecutive Big Eight Conference championship in the fall won't have the \$9 million backfield of Rozier and Gill, Irving Fryar and Mark Schellen. And it will be without Outland Award and Lombardi Trophy winner Dean Steinkuhler, another newly-appointed millionaire thanks to the NFL Houston Oilers.

"Spring Game 1984" was the first public performance of the new cast of characters Nebraska head coach Tom Osborne hopes can continue that run of success.

"I'm somewhat optimistic now compared with the start of spring," Osborne said when the game was over. "We've made progress across the board. I think we

have a chance to win another Big Eight championship."

"I think we have a chance," said Sundberg, the senior-to-be out of Lincoln Southeast High School, who's been groomed as Gill's replacement. His abbreviated spring game stats included six pass completions in seven attempts for 75 yards. He scored the afternoon's first touchdown on a three-yard run.

"I'd say if we continue to progress and don't go backwards, we have a chance to be 7-0 in the Big Eight, or 6-1, or whatever it takes to win it," Sundberg said. Spring is always a time for optimism, and in Nebraska's case, that optimism appears well-founded.

Neither Sundberg nor Turner, a senior-to-be from Scottsbluff who was one of the spring's most pleasant surprises, is likely to achieve Gill's greatness. But if the

ning backs. We'll get in the end zone and that's the bottom line."

Foremost among the "awesome running backs" to whom Turner referred is Jeff Smith, a senior-to-be from Wichita, Kan. Smith set a spring game rushing record of 136 yards, on 18 carries, breaking the previous mark of 126 yards gained by Roger Craig in 1981.

Smith began sprinting toward Craig's record on the first play from scrimmage, taking a pitch from Sundberg and gaining 10 yards over the right side of his offensive line. After fullback Tom Rathman burst off right guard for 20 yards, Smith went over left tackle for nine yards. Six plays later, Sundberg carried the ball into the end zone.

White team I-back Doug DuBose, No. 3 on the depth chart behind Smith and Paul Miles, responded in kind. On his first carry of the afternoon, DuBose skirted his right end for 10 yards. When the sophomore from Uncasville, Conn., was through for the day, he had gained 99 yards on nine carries.

DuBose also turned in the game's longest run, a 41-yard touchdown dash through the first-team defense to cap that first White series and briefly tie the score at 6-6. The gregarious redshirt rushed for every yard on the drive, which covered 80 yards and included one five-yard penalty.

"I wanted to prove we could run on the first team because all spring they'd been stopping us," said DuBose. "It was a 34 option. When he pitched, I wanted to run it a little bit wide and make everybody pursue, and then I cut back and just outran people."

DuBose is one of the fastest players on the team. "He showed today what he's capable of doing. I'm really satisfied with the depth we're going to have at I-back," NU offensive backs Coach Frank Solich said.

Miles was so motivated watching DuBose out-run cornerback Neil Harris to the end zone that he gained 24 yards on his first two carries, after taking over for Smith midway through the Red team's second touchdown drive. "I didn't want to lose to the White team," Miles said with a smile.

The junior-to-be from Princeton, N.J., gained 113 yards in 12 carries.

According to Smith, the Cornhuskers should be solid at running back in the fall, an assertion borne out by the spring game statistics. "Nebraska's always had good I-backs and good back-up people. If I go down, Paul and Doug will be there to take over," he said.

"People can stop asking, 'How's the team without Mike Rozier?' Mike is a great back, but people saw today that we have backs who can replace him," said DuBose. "We've got other backs with the ability to win the Heisman Trophy."

Competition between the top three I-backs doesn't go any farther than the football field. "You want to hold your own on the depth chart, but we're all good friends. We hang out together and get along fine," Miles said.

Rathman, Schellen's successor at fullback, carried only three times during the spring game and gained 30 yards, an average of a first down every time he was handed the ball.

Scott Porter, Rathman's back-up, carried five times and crossed the goal line twice, from one yard out to put the Red team ahead for good with 5:53 left in the first quarter, and from five yards away in the closing seconds of the third quarter.

Schellen, who also was on hand to sign a few autographs during the second half of the spring game, will be missed. Nevertheless, the spring provided evidence of Nebraska's ability to replace quality with quality.

Shows Fast Reds Win

spring was any indication, together they'll provide competent direction for a new NU offensive unit.

"Right now, they're head and shoulders above the others in terms of being ready to play. The third quarterback is still up for grabs," Osborne said, adding that depending on how things go in the fall, he might redshirt freshmen McCathorn Clayton, Hendley Hawkins and Jeff Taylor, and play Clete Blakeman, who was redshirted after being injured early in his first collegiate season.

Turner completed 7-of-13 passes for 71 yards and ran for two Red touchdowns, a three-yarder late in the first half and a 22-yarder with 8:49 remaining in the third quarter. "I'm ready," said Turner, a walk-on who earned himself a scholarship by his consistent effort during the spring.

"Everybody's going to be out to get us this year. We may not score every two or three plays like last year, but I don't see any reason why we can't get back to Miami. We've got a great line and awesome run-

Nebraska assistant coach Frank Solich kids Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier about his "wallet" as Rozier and Turner Gill (right) look on from the sidelines during the Red-White game.





I-back Jeff Smith established a Nebraska spring game record by rushing for 136 yards on 18 carries.

sive end Scott Strasburger recovered a fumbled pitch at his own eight-yard line, on a first-and-goal.

Parker, a former tight end, rambled to the left with the ball, after an intentionally fumbled snap from center, while Turner, in his haste to carry out a fake, collided with fullback John Heinzman, a mistake which enhanced the trick play's deception.

After that series, Turner traded his white jersey for a red one and immediately guided the Red team on a 16-play, 92-yard touchdown drive which actually covered 96 yards because it began with a four-yard penalty loss. Miles accounted for 48 of the yards, on carries of 13, seven, 18 and 10 yards.

Turner, of course, finished the series off with a three-yard run, then passed to tight end Todd Frain for a two-point conversion.

The Reds scored on their first possession of the second half, requiring only seven plays to cover 66 yards. Turner's first three handoffs were to Smith, who ran left each time for gains of 12, 11 and eight yards. After a Turner pass, intended for wingback Jim Thompson, was broken up, Smith carried twice more for 13 yards.

On a second-and-two from the White team's 22-yard line, Turner ran untouched into the end zone on a quarterback reverse. Center Mark Traynowicz cleared the way with a jarring block that took linebacker Dan McCoy out of the play.

"The offensive line opened holes like crazy," Sundberg noted. "Traynowicz, (Harry) Grimmering and some of those guys deserve as much credit as Jeff (Smith). Some of those holes were unbelievable. I couldn't believe them myself."

The Red team's final touchdown capped a 15-play, 90-yard drive which featured four Turner pass completions, to Swanson for 13 yards, to split end Rod Yates for 10 yards, to Miles for 20 yards, and to Smith for four yards.

After the White team had its first possession of the fourth quarter aborted by a Dennis Watkins fumble recovery, Jeff Taylor directed the game's final scoring drive in a battle of lower-unit players.

Taylor opened the 11-play, 75-yard series by scrambling for 18 yards around his right end. The freshman out of Omaha Westside carried three more times for 23 yards and completed an 18-yard pass to Jeff Krantz before teaming up with wingback Jim Holscher for eight yards and the score.

For the most part, events surrounding the game were festive. Late in the first half, Rozier took a microphone from a televis-

"Last year, 'The Scoring Explosion' was nice for the fans, but it kind of separated everybody else," wingback Shane Swanson said. "It's not like that this year. We're a lot closer as a unit." The senior-to-be from Hershey, Ne., caught two passes for 26 yards and demonstrated the steady play which allowed him to bypass a redshirt season following his freshman year.

"Offensively, we're going to miss some big-play people, but I think we showed today we've got some people who can play," said Osborne.

The Red team scored the first two times it had the ball, and the Whites scored on their first possession before the defense, which was prevented from blitzing and limited in what it was allowed to do, began to gain some control. "The first defense was really kind of disappointing in that first (White) drive," Osborne said.

"They just let the second offense move right down the field on them. After that, they played pretty well. Still, you'd expect your first defense not to let that happen."

Middle guard Ken Graeber, who'll be a key figure among the Black Shirts in the fall, watched the spring game in street clothes from the Red team's sideline, one arm in a sling, and the broken hand in a cast.

The Red team's third drive of the scrimmage ended when defensive end Brad Tyrer recovered tight end Brian Hiemer's fumble after catching a pass from Sundberg.

White team monster back Charlie Cartwright nearly scored six points for the defense midway through the second quarter. Scott Livingston's 29-yard field goal attempt was blocked by end Tony Holloway. Cartwright scooped up the ball and raced 48 yards before stepping out-of-bounds at the Red 41-yard line.

Turner directed the Whites to the seven-yard line, with the aid of guard Stan Parker's nine-yard gain on a "fumbleroosky" and 16 yards on two carries by DuBose, but the threat was checked when veteran Black Shirt defen-

Quarterback Craig Sundberg, the successor to Turner Gill, is stopped by defensive end Brad Smith (80). Sundberg suffered a sprained ankle and missed the second half.

ion crew and began interviewing Gill.

Osborne, who watched the proceedings from the press box high atop the West Stadium, first realized Rozier had come back for the game when he heard a familiar voice over the headphones which kept him in touch with coaches on the sideline.

At halftime, Rozier joined Osborne at mid-field to accept an award from *Chicago Tribune* sportswriter Mike Conklin. Nebraska was the "people's choice" as the nation's best college football team in a *Tribune* readers' poll, even after a 31-30 loss to Miami in the Orange Bowl.

Osborne joked that it was obvious the people of Chicago were more intelligent than those who vote in the national wire service polls.

But the spring game had one negative moment which few in the audience noticed. Late in the first quarter, Mike Knox, the Cornhuskers' All-Big Eight linebacker, headed for the sidelines after injuring his left knee.

"I wanted to get off incognito," Knox said in the training room. "I walked off on my own. Nobody had to take me off. Nobody ever has, and nobody ever will."

The next day, Knox underwent two hours of surgery to repair a torn cruciate ligament. According to the initial reports, the senior-to-be from Castle Rock, Colo., will be lost for next season while he rehabilitates the knee. "That's part of the game, the bad part," a terse Osborne said.

"Overall, we had a good spring. The only real damper was Mike Knox."

Osborne and his coaches realized they'd have to find replacements for All-Americans Rozier, Fryar and Steinkuhler. And they knew Gill wouldn't be around to lead the offense next season. But no one expected that, come fall, the Cornhusker defense might be without Knox, a team leader.

RED TEAM OFFENSE

TE — Brian Hiemer, Todd Frain, Bob Bowen, Mike Hall, Paul Tewes.

LT — Mark Behning, Tim Roth, Derrick Green.

LG — Harry Grimmering, Jeff Sellentin, Dan Bailey.

C — Mark Traynowicz, Mark Cooper, Mike Moritz.

RG — Greg Orton, Mike Hoefler, Jim Schaaf.



RT — Tom Morrow, Todd Carpenter, Bill Hudson, Dave Bryan.

SE — Scott Kimball, Rod Yates, Marty Mullins, Jay Otto, Scott Yost, Derrick Green.

QB — Craig Sundberg, Hendley Hawkins, Jerry Mlinar.

IB — Jeff Smith, Paul Miles, Pat Woodruff, Albert Lewis.

WB — Shane Swanson, Jim Thompson, Ray Nelson, Vance Behrens.

FB — Tom Rathman, Scott Porter,

Novell Jackson, Mike Hedlund.

K — Scott Livingston, Dave Schneider, Craig Schnitzler, Eric Vinger.

RED TEAM DEFENSE

LE — Bill Weber, Scott Tucker, Doug Carroll.

LT — Chris Spachman, Mike Zierke, Tony Palmer.

MG — Ken Graeber, Ken Shead, Phil Rogers, Mike Radnov, Jim Roe.



(top photo) Second-string quarterback Travis Turner (14) attempts to pitch the ball during first-half action. The senior-to-be from Scottsbluff, Ne., emerged in the spring as a solid backup to Craig Sundberg. (lower photo) Who's going to replace Mike Rozier? Paul Miles (21) is one of three I-backs who will join forces to do so.

RT — Rob Stuckey, Jim Skow, Lee Jones.
RE — Scott Strasburger, Gregg Reeves, Greg Van Dyke, Harlan Opie.
SLB — Mike Knox, Kevin Parsons, Pat Shaw.
WLB — Marc Munford, Mark Daum, Steve Forch.
LCB — David Burke, Kelly Haecker, Charles Rucker.
RCB — Neil Harris, Gene Chealey, Scott King.
M — Mike McCashland, Todd Fisher, Kevin Biggers, Mark Diaz.
S — Bret Clark, Tom Mattingly.

WHITE TEAM OFFENSE

TE — Don Bourn, Tom Banderas, Joe Augustyn, Brian Moore.
LT — Tim Roth, Brad Johnson, Bill Macias.
LG — Anthony Thomas, Keith Kreikemeier, Kevin Lightner, Ron Galois.
C — Bill Lewis, Jack Noel, John Nichols, Doug Whyrick.
RG — Stan Parker, John McCormick, Todd Olson, Paul Storer.
RT — Tom Welter, Rob Maggard, Jim Dittmer.
SE — Rob Schnitzler, Jason Gamble, Rod Smith, Jeff Krantz, Mike Otte.
QB — Travis Turner, Clete Blakeman, Don Douglas, Jeff Taylor, McCathorn Clayton.
IB — Doug DuBose, Thurman Hoskins, Rob Kingston, Jon Kelley.
WB — Von Sheppard, Pernell Gatson, Jim Holscher, Roger Lindstrom.
FB — John Heinzman, Ken Kaelin, Micah Heibel, Dan Casterline, Paul Anderson.
K — Dale Klein, Tom Demmel, Todd Tenopir, Dan Wingard.

WHITE TEAM DEFENSE

LE — Brad Smith, Brad Tyrer, Dave Bourne, Jeff Jamrog.
LT — Danny Noonan, Lawrence Hart, Scott Weber.
MG — John Reinhardt, John White, Steve



Thomas.

RT— Rod Reynolds, Kevin Blackmer.

RE— Tony Holloway, Paul Gangwish.

SLB— Chad Daffer, Todd Proffitt, Blake Henning.

WLB— Dan McCoy, Stan Wade, Doug Welniak.

LCB— Gary Schneider, Dennis Watkins, Woody Paige.

RCB— Ricky Greene, Brian Pokorny, Mike Carl.

M— Todd Fisher, Charlie Cartwright, Guy Rozier, Jeff Tomjack.

S— Bryan Siebler, Dan Thayer, Matt Strasburger.

(Shead, Turner, Reinhardt, Watkins, Greene, Fisher switched teams at halftime)

RUSHING

RED— Sundberg 4-14; Miles 12-113; Rathman 3-30; Smith 18-136; Swanson 2-12; Hawkins 6-(-40); Thompson 1-14; Mlinar 1-(-10); Jackson 1-4; Woodruff 2-4; Hedlund 1-(-1); Porter 5-16; Lewis 2-2; Turner 6-32; Heinzman 1-2. Totals 65-328.

WHITE— Turner 4-1; Heinzman 1-1; DuBose 9-99; Sheppard 1-5; Blakeman 5-12; Kaelin 3-9; Hoskins 7-25; Lindstrom 1-(-1); Clayton 6-7; Parker 1-9; Taylor 5-50; Kelley 2-18; Holscher 1-(-2); Kingston 2-2; Heibel 1-9. Totals 49-244.

PASSING

RED— Sundberg 6-7-01, 75 yds.; Hawkins 1-2-0, 6 yds.; Turner 5-8-0, 54 yds.; Mlinar 2-3-0, -2 yds. Totals 14-20-0, 133 yds.

White— Turner 2-5-0, 17 yds.; Clayton 0-1-0; Blakeman 1-1-0, 1 yds.; Taylor 3-4-0, 19 yds. Totals 6-11-0, 37 yds.

RECEIVING

RED— HIEMER3-45; Smith 2-2; Thompson 1-19; Behrens 1-6; Swanson 2-26; Miles 2-27; Yates 1-10; Woodruff 1-6; Lewis 1-(-8). Totals 14-33.

WHITE— Schnitzler 1-17; DuBose 1-1; Kaelin 1-0; Kelley 1-(-7); Krantz 1-18; Holscher 1-8. Totals 6-37.

PUNTING

RED— Livingston 1-38; Schnitzler 2-71, 35.5 average.

WHITE— Demmel 3-115, 38.3; Win-gard 4-143, 35.8.

RETURNS

RED— Smith 2-25; Miles 1-23; Swan-son 1-7; Nelson 2-12.

WHITE— Hoskins 2-32; DuBose 4-70; Cartwright 1-41; Kelley 1-19; Shep-pard 1-2.

TACKLE LEADERS

RED— Jones 6-0-6; McCashland 4-1-5; Clark 4-1-5; Tucker 5-0-5; Parsons 3-1-4.

WHITE— Siebler 11-4-15; Daffer 8-0-8; Noonan 4-1-5; Holloway 2-3-5; Proffitt 5-0-5; Welniak 2-3-5; Fisher 3-2-5; Jamrog 4-0-4; Thayer 3-1-0; Carl 4-0-4. •

Reds 35, Whites 13

Whites.....	6	0	0	7-13
Reds.....	13	8	14	0-35

R-W	How They Scored	Time Left
	First Quarter	
6-0	Sundberg 3 run (kick no good) Drive: 72 yards in 9 plays.	11:58
6-6	DuBose 41 run (kick no good) Drive: 80 yards in 6 plays.	9:41
13-6	Porter 1 run (Livingston kick) Drive: 74 yards in 10 plays.	5:53
	Second Quarter	
21-6	Turner 3 run (Frain pass from Turner) Drive: 92 yards in 16 plays.	1:34
	Third Quarter	
28-6	Turner 22 run (Livingston kick) Drive: 66 yards in 7 plays	8:49
35-6	Porter 5 run (Livingston kick) Drive: 90 yards in 15 plays.	0:05
	Fourth Quarter	
35-13	Holscher 8 pass from Taylor (Tenopir kick) Drive: 75 yards in 11 plays	5:19

Attendance: 23,119

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Odds Against Traynowicz Making It 4 Straight

...or are they? Dean Steinkuhler was a longshot when the 1983 season began and folks first began talking of his chances to succeed Dave Rimington as the latest Husker Outland-Lombardi king.

By Randy York

At a black-tie dinner for 2,700 at the plush Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston last December, the conversation was staid, but not pretentious.

Jeff Anderson, one of the hosts for the prestigious Lombardi Trophy dinner, turned to Milt Tenopir, a Nebraska offensive line coach.

"Wouldn't it be something if Dean Steinkuhler won it?" asked Anderson. "The odds are against Nebraska winning it again. But wouldn't it be something?"

Tenopir was confident, but not certain, "I think he'll win it," he said. "Dean's the best lineman in the country."

Accepting that as a statement of fact, Anderson asked the next logical question: "First, Dave Rimington. Now, Dean Steinkuhler. Where do you keep coming up with these guys?"

With that, Tenopir added what he hopes is a fortuitous footnote. "Hey," he told Anderson, "we've got another kid next year. If you want to be honest about talent, Mark Traynowicz can win the Outland and the Lombardi. He's in the same class. He's the same caliber as those other two."

Anderson listened to the endorsement and shook his head. "Another Lombardi candidate after Steinkuhler...no kidding?" he said. "Wouldn't THAT be something?"

Wouldn't that be something, indeed. The trumpets that came out of the cases last December in Houston started blowing for real in April in Lincoln.

Mark Traynowicz, Nebraska's 6-foot-6, 265-pound All-Big Eight center, is ready to take the next step...to All-American and the Outland-Lombardi consideration sure to accompany such status.

Tenopir realizes that Pitt's Bill Fralic will be the preseason choice to sweep the 1984 Outland Award and Lombardi Trophy.

Fralic is the only returning finalist from the 1983 Lombardi "Final Four" that included Steinkuhler, Doug Dawson of Texas and Reggie White of Tennessee.

"But you wait," Tenopir promised. "Traynowicz is going to have the same kind of highlight film as Rimington and Steinkuhler. Dave and Dean just annihilated people. And so will Mark. We're a running football team and a dominating

kid is really going to stick out. Pitt's a throwing football team. I don't know if a lineman there is going to have the opportunity to make the same kind of things happen."

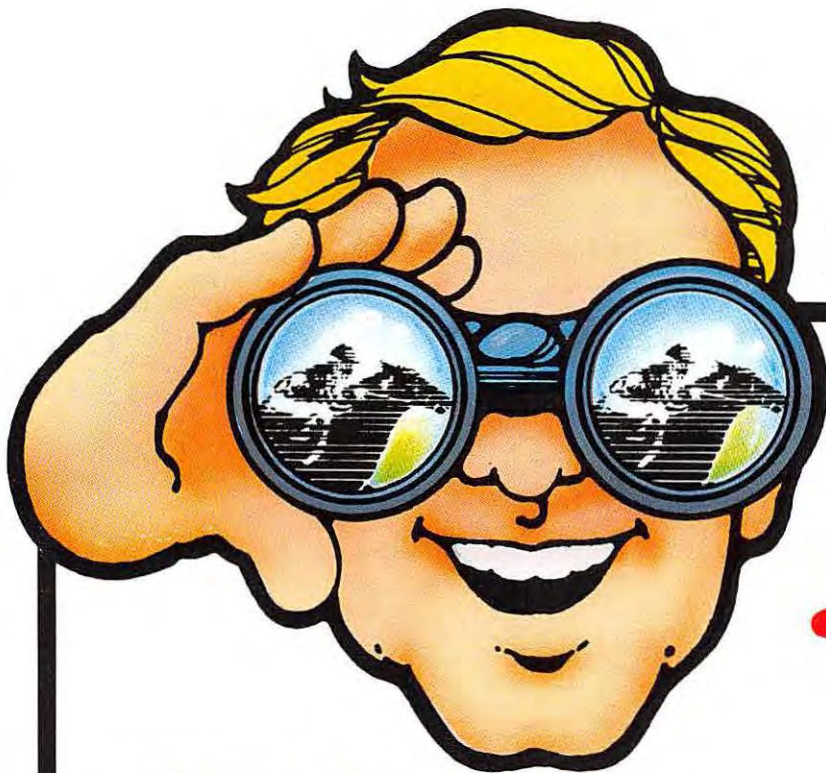
Clete Fischer, Nebraska's veteran offensive line coach, agrees with his cohort.

"Traynowicz is the same type of player as Rimington and Steinkuhler. He'll create action. He'll make things happen this fall like he made things happen this spring," Fischer said.

"We're an I-formation team. We need a great lineman to create a soft spot because we have the backs who can find it," Fischer said. "We're expecting Traynowicz to create that soft spot. We think he should make All-American. We think he has every right to be a contender for the Outland and the Lombardi."

Rimington and Steinkuhler, who have hogged the last three Outlands for Nebraska, don't think their coaches are out of line. Both Husker All-Americans support Traynowicz with a genuine enthusiasm.

Rimington's support surfaced unsolicited one late April afternoon in an empty



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Nebraska locker room. The only two-time winner in Outland history just looked at locker No. 57 and pointed.

"It's political, but Mark Traynowicz should be a top candidate to win the Outland and the Lombardi," he said, cognizant of how far-fetched it sounds for one school to produce four consecutive Outland Award winners.

"It'd be real tough to win another Outland," Rimington admitted. "But the way Mark played last year, I think it's possible. He's a preseason All-American type and he'll get a look real early. He has the talent. He can do it."

Rimington, a starter and developing star in his rookie season with the Cincinnati Bengals, believes Traynowicz is close to a "can't miss" pro.

"A lot of doors are open for Mark right now," he said. "He's a lot taller than I am and he can play tackle as well as center. His value to the pros is better than mine."

Even though Traynowicz has and can play offensive tackle, "he has the demeanor for a center," Rimington said. "He's tough. But he's also calm and smart."

Steinkuhler was just starting to blossom as an offensive guard when Traynowicz made the conversion from tackle to center.

"Center's the hardest position to learn at Nebraska and Mark made the switch look smooth. That takes an incredible athlete," said Steinkuhler, the second overall NFL draft choice who signed a \$2.6 million, four-year contract with the Houston Oilers.

"Mark's odds will be slimmer to win the Outland than mine," Steinkuhler said. "He's definitely at a disadvantage that way. But he's definitely the caliber of player it takes to win it."

At Nebraska, the verdict is unanimous. Milt Tenopir and Clete Fischer think Mark Traynowicz can win the Outland and Lombardi. So do Dave Rimington and Dean Steinkuhler.

But if Mark Traynowicz thinks he's in that category, he isn't saying. He meets any and all glittering comments with a "gee whiz" or "aw shucks" attitude.

"I don't even think about things like that," he said. "My only goal was to improve every week this spring and I think I did. I want to do the same thing next fall. If I do, I'll be where I want to be. Whether that means I'll dominate anyone, I don't know. We'll just have to wait and see."

For Traynowicz, that's about as confident a statement as you're ever going to get. The senior from Bellevue (Neb.) West

High School doesn't have an ounce of boastfulness in his body.

"This talk about the Outland and Lombardi — I don't think we have to worry about it this year," he said.

Sorry, Mark. Your coaches see it differently. "I don't think there's any question about it. Traynowicz is one of the truly outstanding linemen in the United States," Fischer said. "He's probably more what the pros are looking for than either Rimington or Steinkuhler."

One reason is his size. Traynowicz is three inches taller than Rimington and Steinkuhler. "The pros like those long arms," Fischer said. "He has the size, the strength, the quickness (:05.0 in the 40) and the footwork. We didn't really want to move him to center. But he had the quickest feet."

Those quick feet helped Traynowicz make a quick climb as Rimington's successor. The question everyone asked in the spring of 1983 never came up in the spring of 1984. Traynowicz succeeded a legend with a style of his own.

It is, to be sure, a different style. Traynowicz no longer wears his old-fashioned flat top haircut, but it's not much beyond that. And the Nebraska lineman who was brought up on country music and polkas still likes to listen to Ernest Tubb more than anyone else.

Traynowicz's idea of a hot time in the old town of Miami is to throw a fishing line into a canal and listen to country music.

He may sound a little like Gomer Pyle's second cousin, but don't you dare fall for it. Mark Traynowicz carries a 3.45 grade-point-average in civil engineering and he's as serious about becoming a structural engineer as he is about becoming an All-American, an Outland winner or a first-round pro draft choice.

"When I was in high school, I decided I was at Nebraska to go to school first and play football second," Traynowicz said. "There's one year when that didn't show up, but I still try to look at it that way."

The year to which Traynowicz referred was his sophomore season "when we went to Hawaii and then Miami and I got a 2.85 average. The next semester, I got a 3.0. Over the summer, I thought about it and decided I was going to do a lot more studying."

The result was a 3.75 average the first semester last fall and an estimated 3.6 average this spring. Persistence paid off in the classroom just as it paid off on the field.

Almost every weeknight, from September through April, Traynowicz and his brother, Luke, and teammates Ken Graeber and Tim Roth headed for the third



Outland candidate
Mark Traynowicz

floor of Nebraska Hall to study.

"We always got the same secluded little area, so we could be a little louder if we wanted to be," Traynowicz said. "We might have skipped once a week, but never any more than that. We didn't want to study at home. You're too close to the TV. It's too tempting."

For Traynowicz, any kind of a western movie, good or bad, is almost irresistible. After Nebraska's last major scrimmage before the spring game, "I made sure I watched the Johnny Cash movie on television," he said. "A little Johnny Cash or Roy Clark is good for anybody."

Especially after Traynowicz had what he considered a sub-par scrimmage. That next Monday, rather than zero in on his All-American credentials, he magnified his most embarrassing mistake.

True to his nature, he made fun of himself for ruining the offense's best drive of the day with a premature snap to quarterback Travis Turner. Traynowicz snapped it on the three-yard line. But it sailed high into the air and ended with a lost fumble.

"We were going on first count, but Travis didn't even get his hands under me," Traynowicz said. "What do they call that in the cowboy movies. An itchy finger or a hairline trigger?"

Traynowicz always has had this self-deprecating way to analyze his own immense talent.

"He's a quiet, easy-going kid," Tenopir said. "He gets that from his daddy. Matt Traynowicz is the best body man in Omaha. He's probably the best in Nebraska. But you'd never know it if you met him."

Now is a good time to meet 56-year-old Matt Traynowicz, who has been an Omaha body shop worker for 42 years and owned the A-1 Body Shop on Omaha's South 89th St. for 31 years.

Tenopir insists Mark's pride on the field matches his father's pride in the shop.

"People trust Matt with a Rolls Royce," Tenopir said. "He works on the best cars in Omaha."

In April, Matt began work on his third Rolls, a 1962 Bentley once owned by Nelson Rockefeller. Even though it has only 17,000 miles on it, Traynowicz is stripping the paint and starting from scratch.

"It'll look better than it did when it rolled off the line in England," he promised. "I redid a 1960 Rolls Royce four years ago and it brought \$100,000 at an auction in Phoenix. This one probably will, too."

Matt Traynowicz may work on fancy cars. But that's about the only thing fancy he fancies.

"He's just a big old strapping, hard-working man," offered Harry Griminger. "You can see the same qualities in Mark. He's just a big old strapping, hard-working kid. His humility comes from his family background."

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Cornhuskers



YOU'VE GOT STYLE

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Mark (right) and father Matt display their catch during a trip to Canada in 1983.

Grimminger, Nebraska's starting offensive left guard, has been Traynowicz's closest friend for the past 3½ years. That friendship has given him the chance to meet an amazingly close family.

"It's really important for them to be close," Grimminger said. "If you know them, you can see how they resemble each other. They're so close and they work so hard the father, the mother, the brothers and the sisters."

Matt and Rose Traynowicz have three sons and three daughters. Mark is the youngest of the six. The daughters are Marla, 32; Laurel, 28; and Jana, 26. The sons are Buzz, 25; Luke, 23; and Mark, 21.

"Mark's the caboose. But we're all sure proud of him," Matt said. "He's always had it together, ever since he was a little kid. Whatever he's done, he's done it right — school work, football, wrestling, baseball. He always listened and he always worked hard. He was never a carouser. He wouldn't hang around with kids who were."

Tenopir insists the attitude reflects the upbringing. "They're all alike," he said. "There's not a spitting bit of difference in any of them. They all have the same disposition."

The resemblance, no doubt, explains why Grimminger, Graeber, Roth, Mark Daum and Rob Stuckey are also close to Mark's two older brothers.

Buzz, a former national-qualifying discus thrower for Northwest Missouri State, got a good job right out of college.

"He was a field claims representative for State Farm," Matt said. "He was in charge of four counties for a year-and-a-half. But he didn't really like it. So he came into the shop with me."

Buzz and "Old Spike," his Black Labrador puppy, live in a well-built cabin on the Missouri River in Honey Creek, Iowa. He has his own dock, his own ramp, an 18-

foot flat-bottom boat with a 40-horsepower motor, a 180-foot trammel net and enough smoked fish for everybody.

"I've got a Nebraska commercial license and Buzz has an Iowa commercial license," Matt said. "We took 800 pounds of cat and carp out of there early this spring."

Mark's friends use the cabin as a haven

Outland Award

1946 — George Connor, Notre Dame
 1947 — Joe Steffy, Army
 1948 — Bill Fischer, Notre Dame
 1949 — Ed Bagdon, Michigan State
 1950 — Bob Gain, Kentucky
 1951 — Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma
 1952 — Dick Modzeiwski, Maryland
 1953 — J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma
 1954 — William Brooks, Arkansas
 1955 — Calvin Jones, Iowa
 1956 — Jim Parker, Ohio State
 1957 — Alex Karras, Iowa
 1958 — Zeke Smith, Auburn
 1959 — Mike McGee, Duke
 1960 — Tom Brown, Minnesota
 1961 — Merlin Olson, Utah State
 1962 — Bobby Bell, Minnesota
 1963 — Scott Appleton, Texas
 1964 — Steve DeLong, Tennessee

1965 — Tommy Nobis, Texas
 1966 — Lloyd Phillips, Arkansas
 1967 — Ron Yary, USC
 1968 — Bill Stanfill, Georgia
 1969 — Mike Reid, Penn State
 1970 — Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State
1971 — Larry Jacobson, Nebraska
1972 — Rich Glover, Nebraska
 1973 — John Hicks, Ohio State
 1974 — Randy White, Maryland
 1975 — LeRoy Selmon, Oklahoma
 1976 — Ross Browner, Notre Dame
 1977 — Brad Shearer, Texas
 1978 — Greg Roberts, Oklahoma
 1979 — Jim Ritcher, NC State
 1980 — Mark May, Pitt
1981 — Dave Rimington, Nebraska
1982 — Dave Rimington, Nebraska
1983 — Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska

from the rigors of football. "They're all good eggs," Matt said. "They go up to that cabin and just have a heckuva time. It's all good, clean fun. No one bothers no one else. They turn on Ernest Tubb and Earl Scruggs, drop a line in the water and they're in hog heaven."

Even though Matt has snagged catfish between 26 and 29 pounds at home, he also pursues wall-hanging size lake trout, walleye and northern in Minnesota and Canada.

"We went to Minnesota 15 straight years when the kids were growing up," he said. "When they were just punkies, they listened to Ernie Tubb all the way up and all the way back and all the time in between."

The Traynowicz family doesn't need football and fishing to have fun. They can have fun at whatever they do.

"They're quite a family," Fischer said. "They're just great parents. They spend time with their kids. They enjoy 'em and they appreciate 'em."

Matt, the patriarch of the clan, "is unbelievable," Fischer said. "He just loves young people. I don't know how he affords to feed all those guys all the time. They're so generous. They'll do anything for 'em."

Anything includes converting the basement of their six-bedroom ranch-style house in Bellevue into a weight room that might be considered the sequel to Nebraska's West Stadium weight room.

Five years ago, Rose Traynowicz made a decision to help Luke, a 245-pound senior discus-thrower on the Nebraska track team and Mark, who has blossomed into Nebraska's next Outland candidate.

She sold her solid oak round table and sideboard, had the piano moved, bought some red carpet and turned her Bellevue basement into "Boyd Epley II."

"They've got as many weights as old Boyd...more than they need really," Tenopir said. "In the summer, when Luke and Mark get off work, they eat chow at six and nobody sees 'em again until about 10 or 11. They're down in that basement, lifting. It's a religion to them."

"Even Boyd would be the first to admit how unusual that is," Tenopir said. "It's easier to push yourself in a group. But these two brothers, they push themselves. Ever since Luke transferred to Nebraska from Kearney State, he's been just as disciplined as Mark."

The basement does not lack for equipment. "They use the same AMF iron as Boyd," Matt said. "They've got an incline bench, a regular flat bench, a squat rack — the whole nine yards. The two of 'em have put about \$2,000 into that weight room and that's buying at discounted prices. It's probably worth twice that. It's first class all the way."

On a typical hot, humid Bellevue afternoon, the two brothers will get home

from a nine-hour day at the Kellogg plant.

"It'll be more than 100 degrees outside and I'll say to 'em: 'You're not going to lift tonight, are you?' " offered Matt. "And they'll say: 'Oh, yeh. We've got to lift. The chart's on the wall.' They're self-motivated."

The father was so impressed by his sons' dedication, he decided to contribute something to the weight room himself.

"I took a weight poster, cut a big V-shaped piece of plywood and painted it," he said. "I put it up down there. It's just like the one in Boyd's weight room. If you didn't know better, you'd think they were back in Lincoln."

Pride is a Traynowicz trademark. "I got Mark a '78 Corvette when he first went down to school and it looks just as good now as it did then," Matt said. "Most kids would tear it up. Not Mark. He hasn't put a scratch on it."

It all comes as no surprise to his mother. "Mark always gives everything his best," Rose said. "He took slide trombone. The band instructor told him he would have made first-team band, but Mark decided he couldn't play football and march at the same time."

"I always told Matt that Mark was the one who was going to be the great athlete," she said, "because he was so de-

termined and he'd never show off. He was slow and steady at whatever he did. He was never in the glamor spot. He was kind of the workhorse. But he never complained. He just did it."

He did it as a state champion heavyweight wrestler in high school and he's done it as a heavyweight lineman at Nebraska.

"He had an exceptional spring," Fischer said. "Now that he's learned the position, he's concentrated on all the little things. He gets his hands in better on pass blocking, he has better hip position and his footwork has improved. He keeps his head up more and stays lower and crab blocks more like Rimington did on the pitch play. He's moving people out of there."

"He's just annihilating people," added Tenopir. "We're not blowing smoke about the Outland. The kid's got all the tools. He's consistent, he's intelligent and he dominates."

Grimminger, for one, doesn't worry about the hype. "All these trophies...they wouldn't affect Mark in the least," he said.

"He really does have a lot of doors open to him," Rimington said. "He's a great player with great grades. Even if he doesn't play pro football, he can still be a darn good engineer. I really admire the guy...for everything he's put together."

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Tom Morrow refused to quit.



Morrow Got Up Off The Floor, Got Top Spot

Former walkon passed out from heat exhaustion his first day in camp, then stuck with it after he got out of the hospital until he got what he was after — even though it took four years!

By Chuck Sinclair

Anne Morrow says she will never forget the August evening nearly five years ago when she and her husband Tom Sr., sat down to dinner.

The day had been hot, although not unlike most August afternoons in Nebraska.

The meal was interrupted by a telephone call from University of Nebraska trainer George Sullivan. He phoned to inform the Morrrows that their son, Tom Jr., had just been checked into the University Health Center after collapsing of heat stroke.

It was the opening day of freshman football practice at Nebraska, and young Tom Morrow was pursuing a dream.

Not exactly what you might call a blue chip college prospect, the recent Lincoln Pius X graduate had to struggle to make

the mandatory mile-and-a-half conditioning check in the required time.

"We were running indoors (in Mushroom Gardens)," Morrow recalled of toiling in the close atmosphere of the University's old indoor track under the east side of Memorial Stadium. "It must have been about 180-degrees in there. It was hot, and hard to breathe.

"I finished the race and was laying down on the track when Boyd (weight coach Epley) told me to get up because there were other runners coming.

"I stood up to get out of the way...and fell over."

Morrow was quickly taken to the Health Center where his parents joined as soon as they could make the trip from home.

"He wouldn't quit; he absolutely would not quit," Anne Morrow said of her son. "Here football hadn't really even started yet. He ran that race until he collapsed. Then he spent two-and-a-half days in the hospital. If you could have been there when that phone rang. It was terrible."

It was also terrible to see her son in the hospital.

Quitting the race, or football following the collapse, were the furthest things from Morrow's mind.

"I made the required time by two or three seconds," Morrow now says proudly with that harrowing experience far behind him. "Quitting football never crossed my mind then. To me, it just seemed like at that point, I was going to be two or three days behind all the other

guys. I had some ground to make up."

Anne Morrow didn't consider pressing the issue either, even though her son's collapse was a frightening experience to her and her husband. "I probably did think about wanting him to give it up then, but you can't let somebody stay down when they fall. You've got to help them up. The worst thing I could have done there was to encourage him not to play...to leave him down."

That incident, Anne said, illustrates the depths Tom had reached at the beginning of his quest to play football at Nebraska. Now the No. 1 offensive right tackle going into fall camp for his fifth and final year, Morrow has conquered all the odds that seemed so heavily stacked against him from the start.

"He started at the absolute bottom of the pit," Mrs. Morrow said. "He is a product of the system. He's proud of that, and we're proud of that. It's a super system. He always wanted to play college football, and I was always the Doubting Thomas. He's proved me wrong."

Morrow's mom isn't embarrassed by her original doubts, and Tom doesn't harbor any ill feelings about those doubts. He himself admits that playing college football was a pretty lofty goal to set considering his background in football.

After playing only one year of organized football before his freshman year at Pius X, Morrow was not an instant success as a Thunderbolt. He paid his dues over the course of his high school career. He lettered as a junior of the Pius X Class B state championship team, but didn't start until his senior season.

His high school coach, Vince Aldrich at Pius, recalled Morrow as always a good-sized kid, even when he got to Pius X as a freshman.

"He played pretty good ball as a sophomore, but he got hit pretty hard near the end of the season, and got a concussion," Aldrich said. "That set him back a ways."

Following a 4-3-1 senior season, Morrow wasn't All-State, or All-City. "I wasn't all-anything," he said. "Nobody made any mistakes with me. I really don't think I was very good in high school."

"I was kind of a muffin. I lifted some weights in high school, but nothing like I do now. I wasn't big, I wasn't strong, I wasn't fast and my technique wasn't very good. When I got to Nebraska I was a marginal athlete, at best. I don't think anybody thought I'd ever play."

His mother was not alone in that respect. "I think I've surprised everybody — my family, my friends, my coaches, even myself," he said. "It's not what people say. I can just tell by their faces what they're thinking 'is this the same kid who played for Pius X?'"

Those friends were the same ones who had told him to be realistic and go to a small college where he could have some

"We've been where you're going."



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Although admittedly not a great high school player, Morrow's size, 220-pounds, did attract the attention of one major college recruiter from the Air Force Academy.

"This recruiter came down and said he'd like me to come and play football with them," Morrow said. "At the time, that was the only big school to show any interest at all, so I said I would."

That was one oral commitment that Morrow does not regret not keeping.

"I verbally committed to the Air Force, and I had no intention of coming here," Morrow said. "I've thought a lot about it, and I really have no idea why I did it."

"I just changed my mind. I don't know why. I guess I always wanted to play for Nebraska. I suppose part of it was, I lived in Lincoln and I had gone to (Nebraska's) football camp here the summer before my senior year in high school."

Morrow can give an assist to Aldrich for the direction he took. Nebraska assistant Coach Clete Fischer had stopped by Pius X and asked Aldrich if any of his players might be interested in walking on.

Aldrich said Morrow might, and gave Fischer some films. Then freshman Coach Frank Solich asked Morrow if he would be interested in walking on at Nebraska.

"He had played for us and started every game as a senior," Aldrich said. "I didn't really recommend him that much. I was going more on his size and potential. I thought it was a matter of just continuing to work with him at the time to get more out of him, to help him understand what he was doing."

"There used to be a kid, I can't remember his name now, but he worked out over at Pius X while he was at Nebraska. He was built a lot like Tom," Aldrich said. "I used to look at him and compare him to Tom, thinking, by gosh, if he can make it, Tom could make it. I used to carry that in my mind."

The Air Force thought he could make it, and consequently, Morrow said the Air Force Academy coaches were "pretty upset," with his change of heart.

At the time, Morrow was 220 pounds, ran a 5.5 40-yard dash and bench pressed 270 pounds. His latest figures are somewhat more impressive. He weighs 260, runs the 40 in a position record 4.93 (4.73 hand-held), and benches 415 pounds.

"His improvement has been just astronomical," line Coach Milt Tenopir said. "He's made himself into a heck of a good football player. And it's all because of his determination."

It was that same determination that carried him through the original mile-and-a-half run.

But Morrow himself prefers to credit the program for his success rather than his own determination.

"The weights and the coaching are the



two biggest things," Morrow said. "The weights get you bigger so you can handle it physically, and the coaches spend so much time every day on basic fundamentals that you gain confidence in what you do. The repetition is absolutely incredible. As many times as you run a play in practice, you have the confidence that you know you're going to do it right when it's called in a game."

Morrow says the weights and the coaches are the reasons he presently finds himself as the apparent replacement for Scott Raridon, the player he backed up as a junior while earning his first letter at Nebraska.

"Tom Morrow is a solid No. 1, and he's going to be tough to beat out," Tenopir said. "If he continues to work like he has been, he's going to be a fine player for us in the fall."

The positioning is the culmination of four years of hard work for Morrow.

"My goal never was to start for Nebraska," Morrow admits. "I didn't think I'd ever start. What I wanted was kind of like what Kurt Glathar had. He didn't start, but he alternated every seven plays. That's how I was hoping to end up."

Glathar, like Morrow, was a fifth-year senior at that time. An article Morrow read in a magazine while at Pius X also helped him establish his goals.

"There was an article on Nebraska's offensive line and the title of it was: 'If you stay, you play.' I guess that's kind of come true for me."

If he holds his current positioning through the first three weeks of fall camp, Morrow will join a long list of offensive tackles who didn't start until they were fifth-year seniors — players like Mark Goodspeed, Dan Steiner, Tom Carlstrom,

Jeff Kwapick and the player he's replacing, Raridon.

Waiting through four years isn't the easiest thing in the world, Morrow admitted, and said the thought of giving up "crossed my mind a few times, but never really seriously."

"The whole thing is really psychological. If you stay around here, work hard all the time and learn the system, you're going to get your chance. It's just in the last two years where I've learned how to run efficiently. If I hadn't stayed, I wouldn't even know how to do that."

Still, Morrow knows his current position is not etched in stone. He met one challenge when Anthony Thomas was moved from guard to tackle at the start of spring ball. That experiment ended after the second scrimmage. He feels he'll have to meet another one this fall.

"It could happen during fall camp," Morrow said. "Somebody could move ahead of me. If that happens, then I just work harder to try and get the job back. Obviously, I'll do whatever is best to help the team."

"It was a big boost to my confidence when I went to No. 1. The coaches must feel I can do the job, and that's enough self-motivation for me. Coach (Tom) Osborne has told us repeatedly that he doesn't expect a real big dropoff from last year. He's said he's not expecting us to be a marginal team."

"So if the coaches are going to count on me, I owe it to them to put as much into it as I possibly can."

That's the kind of attitude that he used to prove everyone, even his mother, wrong.

"My initial intent was to prove everybody wrong," Morrow said. "Now, I'm in it to be the best football player I can be."

He's well on his way to reaching that particular goal. His old high school coach ventured out to Memorial Stadium for the spring game, and came away totally impressed.

"I was very impressed with Tom when I saw him in the spring game," Aldrich said. "There's been some tremendous improvement, I'll tell you that much. He's a fine, fine football player."

"I can't take credit for that, other than I think I was very patient with him as a high school player. I just felt at the time it was too hard to predict what he might be able to accomplish a few years down the line."

He's accomplished enough to make those doubters believers.

"I certainly have had to back down on my stance as a Doubting Thomas," Mrs. Morrow said. "It's because of the program and the coaches, and his determination. Long ago he wrote down what it said on the blackboard, 'Through patience and courage, eventually you'll get your end.' He wanted an end...right from the very start."•



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BIG EIGHT



PREVIEW

Last year, Nebraska became the first school since Bud Wilkinson's Oklahoma Sooners in the late '50s to win three straight Big Eight football championships with an unbeaten record.

This year's goal hasn't changed. The title of Nebraska's new football poster says it all: "Go for 4 in '84."

Obviously, the Huskers think they have the ammunition to manufacture another championship. The only difference is the general theme.

It's goodbye superstars; hello stars...new stars, bright stars, unpredictable stars.

Last year's football poster became a national phenomenon. "The Scoring Explosion" with Turner Gill, Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar proved prophetic.

It fit the Huskers as accurately as any previous poster. The fans loved it and the media milked it. But it wasn't exactly a universal hit.

"The Scoring Explosion was nice for the fans. But it kind of separated everybody else," said Nebraska wingback Shane Swanson. "It's not like that this year. We're a lot closer as a unit."

And that's what the new poster will reflect. "Go for 4 in '84" shows 29 Nebraska seniors in the formation of the number 4. They're all together and all stretching for the same thing...another Big Eight championship.

It is a theme with which even Tom Osborne can identify.

"I'm somewhat optimistic now, compared with the start of the spring," Osborne said after the annual spring game. "I think we have a chance to win another Big Eight championship."

Osborne's enthusiasm almost matches the optimism shared by Craig Sundberg and Travis Turner, the two quarterbacks on whom Nebraska's chances ride.

"I'd say if we continue to progress and don't go backwards, we have a chance to be 7-0 in the Big Eight, or 6-1, or whatever it takes to win it," said Sundberg.

"Everybody's going to be out to get us this year," Turner said. "We may not score every two or three plays like last year, but I don't see any reason why we can't get back to Miami. We've got a great line and awesome running backs. We'll get in the end zone and that's the bottom line."

Sundberg will try to rebuild an offense with a different engine. He knows it'll look different, sound different and run different. But he hopes the results will be the same.

"We most definitely have to take a different route," Sundberg said. "It's going to take more plays to get to the goal line this year. But I still think we can get there."

So does *Huskers Illustrated*. Our crystal

ball sees another Nebraska Big Eight championship on the horizon.

The Huskers may not be loaded down with million-dollar superstars. But they're loaded down with tradition, momentum and a schedule that should pave another yellow brick road to Miami.

In 24 of the last 26 seasons, Nebraska or Oklahoma has won or shared the conference championship. This year should be no different. The Huskers have enough re-

turning talent to rate a slight edge over the equally dangerous Sooners.

After Mike Knox's unfortunate spring game knee injury, Nebraska has 11 returning starters. That total ranks behind Oklahoma State's 15, Kansas State's 14 and Oklahoma's 13 and ahead of Iowa State, Colorado and Kansas, all of whom return 10 starters.

But even Osborne admits NU's total is deceiving. In his mind, fullback Tom Rathman, split end Scott Kimball and middle guard Ken Graeber are equivalent to returning starters because they shared that status with Mark Schellen, Ricky Simmons and Mike Tranmer last year.

Add No. 1 place kicker Scott Livingston, Nebraska's No. 1 placekicker and punter from a year ago "and we've got 16 guys with starting experience in the top 24 positions," Osborne said.

The experience is exceeded only by the schedule. This fall, the Huskers face what should be their top three conference rivals at home. Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Missouri all must travel to Lincoln.

The Big Eight forecast from here, with last year's record in parentheses:

1. Nebraska (12-1). The offense won't be as explosive. But in some respects, that may be an advantage. "The best defensive statistics always have been the result of an offense that marches up and down the field and eats up the clock," said NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride. "I can see this offense doing that this year." A better rested defense is a key to what should be a better defense.

2. Oklahoma (8-4). Want an idea of why the Sooners are more explosive than they've been in the last three years? Well, for one thing, Earl Johnson did not finish the spring in the No. 1 backfield. Last year, he was the Big Eight's third leading rusher behind Nebraska's Mike Rozier and teammate Spencer Tillman. He gained 945 yards in 10 games. But he still doesn't rank ahead of Tillman (1,047 yards) at halfback or Freddie Sims at fullback. With nine returning starters on offense and a defense anchored by All-America candidate Kevin Murphy at end, Tony Cassilas at noseguard and Keith Stanberry at strong safety, the Sooners are itching to return to the top.

3. Oklahoma State (8-4). Nebraska's Osborne thinks the Cowboys can stake the same kind of claim to the championship as Oklahoma or his own team. "They return their quarterback, their running backs and a lot of great defensive players," Osborne said. Rusty Hilger is back at quarterback. Even though Shawn Jones joined Rozier as

Continued on Page 62

Defense Provides Huskers Big 8 Edge

Schedule also favors Nebraska as Osborne goes after fourth straight league title with Sooners, Cowboys and Tigers all entertaining upset hopes.

PRE-SEASON PICKS

1. Nebraska
2. Oklahoma
3. Oklahoma State
4. Missouri
5. Kansas
6. Iowa State
7. Kansas State
8. Colorado



(top to bottom) Head Coach Bill McCartney, quarterback Derek Marshall and running back Lee Rouson.



Buffaloes Found Airways Productive In 1983; Need Defense In '84

Vogel and Marshall return at quarterback, but Colorado must get healthy and avoid added injury woes to improve.

Chuck Fairbanks was supposed to be the miracle worker in Boulder. Not Bill McCartney. And no one's saying that McCartney will turn his rocky road in the Rockies into a road to the Orange Bowl. Not yet, anyway. But the former University of Michigan assistant appears to be headed in the right direction.

Fairbanks inherited a program from Bill Mallory which had peaked at 9 wins and 3 losses in 1975, only to slip to 8-4, 7-3-1 and 6-5 the next three seasons. Things were certainly not in shambles when Fairbanks deserted the New England Patriots for the solitude of the Rocky Mountains. They were in shambles by the time McCartney got the call to Boulder.

Fairbanks' three teams at CU were 3-8, 1-10 and 3-8. Enter McCartney in 1982 — June of 1982; too late to do anything about recruiting, spring practice or anything else until the fall of that year. Even at that, his first club was 2-8-1. And last season the Buffaloes doubled that win total. The six wins in his first two years are even more amazing in the face of the injuries and other problems which McCartney has been forced to overcome.

Some of the more notable misfortunes include: the academic loss of game-breaker Walter Stanley that first year, followed by the news that quarterback Randy Essington wouldn't be able to play because of a blood disorder; running back Derek Singleton succumbed to a fatal illness; highly touted recruit Eric McCarty was sidelined by an injury prior to last season; drug convictions which sidelined other key players; a disabling injury to promising linebacker Barry Remington; another disabling injury to Eric Coyle, who had earned a starting job at guard and has since been moved to center; an off-season injury last winter to starting quarterback Derek Marshall, causing him to miss all spring; an injury in the spring game this year to backup quarterback Craig Keenan, the same type shoulder injury which decked Marshall; and the loss (at least at press time) of starting split end Loy Alexander when

the talented junior left the team the day before spring practice ended.

And those are only some of the more noteworthy.

Despite all those problems, McCartney has a team much bigger, much deeper and much more physically gifted than any at Colorado in recent years. On the negative side, the Buffs still have to get over the stigma of a losing program and face a schedule outside the Big Eight which could be murderous.

After opening at home against Michigan State (the Spartans won last year in Big 10 country, 23-17), Colorado travels to Oregon and Notre Dame and then returns home to tangle with UCLA. It's the type of schedule which smells suspiciously like 0-4 before CU begins league play at Missouri.

Colorado will face that schedule with little apparent starting experience on offense. But don't be fooled by official statistics. Steve Vogel at quarterback, Lee Rouson at running back, Ron Brown at wingback and Junio Ili at guard (add Alexander if you're a Buff optimist) are far from the only experienced hands on that unit.

Coyle (6-foot-2, 253 pounds) is at center and showed in the spring that he had recovered from his surgery. Senior Shaun Beard (6-foot, 250, sr.) is no green newcomer. Ili (6-1, 254, sr.) has been to war, including time as a starter at guard last year. It's at the tackles that McCartney must find some help. Sophomores Tim Harper (6-5, 265) and Pat Ryan (6-3, 259) were the leaders through spring, but insiders feel that junior college transfer James Webb (6-4, 265 from Kirkwood, Mo.) will move into the lineup early. He was a first-team juco All-American last fall at Butler Community College. Webb benches over 400 pounds.

Jon Embree (6-3, 204, soph) was the favorite to replace Dave Hestera at tight end, but one of the pleasant surprises of the spring was another sophomore tight end — Ed Reinhardt (6-5, 220). He was the leading receiver in the 14-6 Varsity win over the Alumni in the spring finale. Brown (6-0, 182) is set at wingback, and Alexander seemed to have a lock at split end until he walked. He asked to be forgiven and to rejoin the team, but McCartney was not in the mood yet. Hugo Nevarez (5-11, 186, jr.) started in the Alumni game. However, Joe Collins (6-1, 180 from Pomona, Calif.) is heralded as a can't miss prospect and could well wind up the starter. Collins had 175 career catches in high school for 2,467 yards

and 25 touchdowns.

Rouson (6-2, 201, sr.) was also a heralded recruit, and he's proven to be as good as advertised. He rushed for 494 yards on 120 carries last year and caught 25 passes for 223 yards. Rouson is a three-year starter with a year to go.

McCarty (6-2, 225) will be a freshman again this year after knee surgery delayed his college debut a year ago. He's still a step away from being at full speed, which makes it easier to move him to fullback and leave Rouson at tailback. If McCarty can't go, however, Rouson would move back to fullback and Brown to tailback.

Vogel will have the edge at quarterback going into the fall. He threw for 1,385 yards last year despite losing his job for a while to Marshall, who is a more accurate thrower and more dangerous runner. If the 6-4, 202 senior keeps his position through the season he will undoubtedly break almost all of the Colorado passing records.

Larry Eckel is a senior placekicker who did well enough to earn the starting job there. But a good showing by anyone this fall could cause a shuffle.

Most of Colorado's problems last year (other than the offensive line) came when opponents had the ball. The Buffs were last in the Big Eight in rushing defense (257.2 yards per game) and sixth in pass defense and scoring defense (31.1 points per outing). They were far and away the worst team in the league in total defense, giving up 444.1 yards a game.

Improvement this fall will key on the return to action by Remington (6-3, 219, soph) at one inside linebacker spot and by the play of some inexperienced interior linemen and linebackers. Ken Lightner (6-3, 265, soph) and Curt Koch (6-7, 247, soph) were locked in a deadlock at one tackle, with returning starters Don Muncie (6-2, 220) and George Smith (6-3, 259, sr.) at nose guard and the other tackle.

Don Fairbanks (6-3, 222, jr.) replaced Remington last year and is at the other inside backer spot. Dan McMillen (6-4, 220, jr.) held one outside linebacking job, but speculation is that juco transfer Derrick Smith (6-5, 235) will wind up starting. He's a former Marine (three years in the service right out of high school) who played the last two years at San Jose City College and can run the 40 in 4.7. Wayne Carroll (6-3, 200, sr.) is a returning starter at the other outside slot, but he's been moved out by Darin Schubeck (6-2, 192, jr.), who had a great spring.

Kent Davis (6-2, 191, sr.) is the only returning starter in the secondary, but Solomon Wilcots (5-11, 170, jr.) has seen plenty of duty and has improved his quickness from 4.75 when he enrolled to 4.57 this spring. Lyle Pickens (5-11, 175, jr.) will be trying to fill the shoes of graduated Victor Scott at the other corner. John Bennett was the favorite at strong safety, but missed early spring drills with an injury and allowed Mickey Pruitt (6-0, 192, soph) to gain an edge there due to his hard hitting.

Alan Chrite (6-2, 220, sr.) was the second-leading tackler at CU in 1982, but sat out last year due to personal problems. He could wind up at one of the linebacking spots.



Quarterback Steve Vogel hopes to hang onto No. 1 job.

COLORADO BUFFALOES

HEAD COACH: Bill McCartney, 3rd season (6-15-1 overall, 3-10-1 in the Big Eight).

1983 RECORD: 4 wins, 7 losses (2-5 in the Big Eight, tied for 6th place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (5) Loy Alexander, 5-11, 173, Jr. SE; Junior Ili, 6-1, 254, Sr. G; Steve Vogel, 6-4, 202, Sr. QB; Lee Rouson, 6-2, 201, Sr. HB; Ron Brown, 6-0, 182, Jr. WB.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (5) Don Muncie, 6-2, 220, Sr. NG; Don Fairbanks, 6-3, 222, Jr. WLB; George Smith, 6-3, 259, Sr. T; Wayne Carroll, 6-3, 200, Sr. OLB; Kent Davis, 6-2, 191, Sr. WS.



(top to bottom) Head Coach Jim Criner, fullback Tommy Davis and tight end Dave Smoldt.

Cyclones Seek New Aerial Artist To Get Ball To Tracy Henderson

Archer is gone, but Iowa State has flanker Tracy Henderson back to catch someone's passes — and a new-found running threat.

Change. Jim Criner brought it with him when he took over the head coaching job at Iowa State before the 1983 season. And change is still the key word at Ames as the former Boise State boss tries to keep the Cyclones into the first division of the Big Eight Conference.

The biggest thing Criner did last fall was convert ISU into one of the top passing teams in the country. With quarterback David Archer pulling the trigger and flanker Tracey Henderson catching the bullets, the Cyclones threw for 247 yards a game (13th in the nation and second only to Kansas in the Big Eight). His first team at Ames surprised a bunch of folks by winning three of seven league games and tying Oklahoma State for fourth place. Iowa State could have enjoyed that position by itself, but dropped a 30-7 decision to the Cowboys in the season finale to wind up 4-7 on the year.

Criner watched Archer use up his eligibility in that contest against OSU. He also watched six other starters from his offensive unit graduate. He knew there would be some changes in 1984...some new faces.

There will be even more changes than Criner anticipated. Robbie Minor, who started some at split end last year as a freshman, lost his job this spring to junior college transfer Danny Gantt, a 6-foot-3, 205-pound junior college transfer from Cerritos, Calif. (after initially attending Nevada-Las Vegas). And starting tailback Tommy Davis was moved to fullback after sophomore Al Watson turned in an eye-opening performance this spring.

The quarterback job? It's still up for grabs.

Letterman Alan Hood (6-1, 195, jr.) was the pre-spring favorite to replace Archer. And Hood had a good spring. But so did transfer Alex Espinoza, who sat out last year in Ames after coming in from Fullerton State. He started the last part of the season there as a freshman.

In the wild 62-3 spring finale scrimmage (with the first teams pitted against all comers) Hood hit on 13 of 27 passes for 232 yards and two touchdowns. Espinoza was 9 of 26 for 147 yards and a TD. Both played for the first team. All told last spring, Hood was 36 of 84 for 587 yards and Espinoza 37 of 90 for 544 yards.

Criner says now he will wait until the first 10 days of fall practice have been completed before selecting his starter at quarterback. And he does plan on going with one quarterback during the season. Hood is more of a runner and roll-out passer, while Espinoza is the drop-back flinger type.

Watson should give the ISU ground game a much-needed lift. Last fall the Cyclones were last in the Big Eight in rushing with only 94.6 yards a game — and but 2.6 yards per carry. For the spring, Watson (a 6-1, 200-pound sophomore from Omaha who was on the jayvee team last fall) rushed for 423 yards in 73 carries during the seven ISU scrimmages.

"He's the type of back who can be patient and wait for a hole to develop, then turn on the speed," said one Cyclone staff member.

With Watson providing a running threat at tailback, Davis was able to be moved to fullback, where he has proven much more effective. The 5-8, 192 senior had a miserable year in 1983, averaging less than three yards a pop.

Henderson, of course, set the league on fire last fall as a sophomore, catching 81 passes for 1,051 yards and eight touchdowns. He was first-team Big Eight and third-team All-American as he became the first league receiver to top the 1,000-yard mark. The 6-foot, 180-pounder set league records for catches in a season and in a game (16).

Tight end Dave Smoldt (6-3, 240) is also back for his senior season. He started last year after missing the year before due to a severe farm injury which left



him with disabling burns. Minor is now running second team behind Henderson at flanker.

But the offensive line at ISU will be completely rebuilt. Sophomores will dominate, as Todd Krieger (6-2, 272) will be at center and Vince Jasper (6-3, 253) and Scott Brandt (6-4, 276) at the guards. Juniors Bruce Westemeyer (6-6, 260) and Kevin Eggleston (6-8, 312) topped the chart at tackle following spring drills.

Marc Bachrodt is expected to take over the placekicking chores.

Defensively, the Cyclones return much more experience. But there will be some evident change there, too. Criner tried a four-man front this spring and liked it.

The middle of that defense should be tough to run against. Steve Little (6-3, 250, sr.) and Barry Moore (6-4, 253, sr.) will man the tackle spots, with Perry Laures (6-3, 252, jr.) and Jim Luebbers (6-4, 240, sr. and a starter last year at outside linebacker) at the ends.

The important middle linebacker role will be filled by Vernon Singleton, a 6-1, 231 junior college transfer from Los Angeles. He'll be flanked on one side by all-star candidate Lester Williams (6-1, 219, sr.), a two-year starter already at ISU who had seven quarterback sacks last fall among his 91 tackles. The other outside backer will be Tim Iverson (6-2, 215, jr.).

Dennis Gibson (6-2, 208, soph) and Randy Richards (6-3, 204, soph) will also figure in the picture at linebacker.

The secondary at Ames should be much improved over last year — and it wasn't that bad in 1983, winding up third in the Big Eight in pass defense. Joe Jackson (6-0, 183, sr.) and Kevin Williams (5-10, 170, sr.) return at the corners, although Jackson has a battle on his hands against sophomore Danny Harris, a 6-1, 170 flyer from California who is a world junior record sprinter. George Walker (6-3, 210, sr.) will be back for his third year as a starter for I-State. He led the team with four interceptions last year, three of them in the fourth quarter against Vanderbilt last fall. Walker is being moved from strong safety to free safety, making room for junior college transfer James Newbill, an impressive 6-3, 198 junior who shone this spring.

Doug Meyers had been counted on to do the punting next year, but he lost his spot to sophomore Jim Thompson. He in turn may turn over the job to incoming freshman Tim Niggeling, a heralded punter who averaged more than 42 yards a kick in high school last year.

The schedule for the Cyclones will not be easy. They open at cross-state rival Iowa — a team which embarrassed them by a 51-10 count last fall. After a home date with Drake, Iowa State travels to Texas A&M and then hosts West Texas State. Criner's club will open its Big Eight schedule with back-to-back road games — at Kansas and at Colorado — before coming home to challenge Oklahoma and then going to Missouri.

The Cyclones will be at home against Nebraska and Kansas State and then finish up its regular season at Oklahoma State.



Flanker Tracy Henderson is an All-American candidate.

IOWA STATE CYCLONES

HEAD COACH: Jim Criner, 2nd season (4-7 at Iowa State, 63-28-1 overall, 3-4 in Big Eight).

1983 RECORD: 4 wins, 7 losses (3-4 in the Big Eight, tied for 4th place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (4) Robbie Minor, 6-0, 178, So. SE; Dave Smoldt, 6-2, 231, Sr. TE; Tommy Davis, 5-8, 192, Sr. TB; Tracy Henderson, 6-0, 182, Jr. FL.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (6) Steve Little, 6-3, 250, Sr. T; Barry Moore, 6-4, 263, Sr. NT; Lester Williams, 6-1, 220, Sr. WOLB; Kevin Williams, 5-10, 170, Sr. CB; Joe Jackson, 6-0, 183, Sr. CB; George Walker, 6-3, 210, Sr. FS.



(top to bottom) Head Coach Mike Gottfried, running back Robert Mimbs and tight end Sylvester Byrd.



Jayhawks Are Younger, Smaller And Need Confidence Boost

Disappointing senior class has gone now, leaving Kansas with inexperienced team in rugged Big Eight wars.

Mike Gottfried stepped into what appeared to be a great situation for a young football coach last year. After making a name for himself at the University of Cincinnati, he was coming to Kansas at a time when the Jayhawks were hungry for a change, but loaded with experienced talent.

With seniors like quarterback Frank Seurer, tailback Kerwin Bell, linemen K.C. Brown and Reggie Smith, kicker Bruce Kallmeyer and defenders Carky and Marky Alexander and Eddie Simmons, it seemed to be an ideal time for Gottfried to wade into the Big Eight Conference with his aerial offense ideas and make waves immediately.

The Jayhawks hardly made a ripple on the waters controlled by Nebraska and Oklahoma. Even though Seurer passed for a remarkable 2,789 yards and Kallmeyer was second in the league in scoring (behind Heisman winner Mike Rozier of the Huskers), Kansas floundered around the basement area of the conference until a season-ending upset of Missouri boosted Gottfried's club up into a tie for sixth and seventh with Colorado.

It was a season difficult to explain. The Jays were first in the Big Eight (and fourth nationally) in passing with 286 yards per game. They were first in pass defense, giving up only 159.1 yards per outing. They were second in total offense (403.1), first in punt returns (12.9) and second in scoring offense (26.9).

But those numbers did not add up to a winning season. Far from it, KU finished with only two Big Eight wins in seven tries and were only 4-6-1 on the season, despite an upset of USC in the Coliseum.

The numbers that rang true were: seventh in rushing offense (117.1) and rushing defense (250.5), fifth

in scoring defense (29.1), seventh in total defense (409.6) and last in net punting (31.4).

For all the things Kansas did right, they did even more wrong.

All those seniors are gone now. Gottfried is still around. And now he's trying to rebuild with a team loaded with young players who are haunted by the frustrations of the Class of '84 (Bell, Seurer, etc.).

"We had a good spring practice and achieved many of our goals in terms of helping many of our young players learn in game-type situations," said Gottfried at the conclusion of spring drills. "We're a very young football team with a number of glaring weaknesses. We lack depth and size at several positions. We will not make any decisions on redshirting anyone until the fall."

The biggest hunt of the spring was one for a quarterback to replace Seurer, one of the most dangerous, if not consistent, passers the league has seen in a long time. At the end of spring practice, junior Mike Norseth (6-3, 200) had the edge over sophomore Mike Orth (6-4, 200). Norseth, a junior college transfer, hit on 11 of 22 attempts for 229 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the Blue-White spring finale. He quarterbacked the losing (by a 23-22 margin) Blue team. Orth connected on 10 of 22 for 91 yards and one touchdown.

One of the big pluses from the game was Dodge Schwartzburg, who kicked a 20-yard field goal with nine seconds left to give the White team its win. The leader in trying to fill the shoes of Kallmeyer, Schwartzburg also hit from 36 and 47 yards out.

Only three starters return on offense for Kansas, and they're spread around. Center Bennie Simecka (6-foot-2, 185 pounds) is a veteran senior back for his third year as a starter, while tight end Sylvester Byrd (6-3, 220) also returns for a third time around. Those two have already been named two of the Jays' captains for 1984. Tailback Robert Mimbs is the third returning starter. The 6-foot, 190 junior rushed for only 38 yards per game last year, but had a fine 4.8-yard average per carry.

The rest of the offense will definitely have a new look about it. At the end of spring practice the starting wide receivers were Richard Estell (6-4, 196, jr.) and Skip Peete (6-foot, 185, jr.). Both were listed at flanker before the spring, but Estell moved to split

end and both are now in the starting lineup.

There is good competition at fullback, where sophomore Mark Henderson passed junior Charles Cooper during the spring. Henderson is a 6-foot, 215-pounder. Lynn Williams (6-2, 200) and Harvey Fields (6-foot, 200) back up Mimbs at tailback.

Flanking Simecka will be guards Paul Oswald (6-4, 265) and Doug Certain (6-4, 260), both juniors. Freshman Jim Davis (6-6, 245) came from nowhere to nail down one of the starting tackle jobs, with Bob Pieper (6-5, 265, soph) giving KU a very young look at the tackles. Seniors Kurt Mueller (6-5, 260) and Quintin Schonewise (6-5, 265) are still in the running there, however.

The Jayhawk defense returns seven starters, but only four of those were running first team at the end of spring. Willie Pless (6-foot, 215, jr.) was one of the pleasant surprises for Gottfried last fall, leading Big Eight linebackers in tackles with 190 — 80 of those unassisted. Pless is back at one linebacker spot, with sophomore Darnell Williams (6-2, 218) also returning. He, too, held his job during the spring. He was in on 152 tackles as a freshman.

Safety Derek Berry (6-3, 195) is another who started as a freshman due to all the problems KU had on defense. Berry played well this spring. So did left guard Eldridge Avery (6-3, 225), another second-year player. But 1983 starters Joe Masaniai, Rod Timmons and Len Gant were not listed as starters at the conclusion of spring drills. Timmons was playing behind sophomore Phil Forte (6-3, 220) at left guard, while Avery moved to the right side.

The fact that the KU defensive front sported two sophomores and three juniors out of the six starters is an indication that Gottfried is hoping a transfusion of young blood will get his team back on the road to good health.

Flanking Berry in the secondary will be former tailback Dino Bell (5-9, 180, jr.) and Alvin Walton (6-foot, 185, jr.). Bell had his moments of glory as a ball carrier two years ago when brother Kerwin was out of the lineup, but his talents are needed more on defense, Gottfried feels.

The second-year KU coach was not blowing smoke when he moaned about the youth and lack of size on his squad. That starting front six on his defense coming out of spring averages 220 pounds. And, while the offensive front is considerably bigger, the youth factor (one senior, a junior, two sophomores and a freshman in the middle) is staggering.

Gottfried is finding no friends in the schedule-making department, either. Kansas opens at home against Wichita State (a team the Jays whipped, 57-6, last fall), but then hosts powerful Florida State before going to Vanderbilt and North Carolina the next three weeks before embarking upon the league campaign. A home date with Iowa State is a plus (the Cyclones won the aerial wars last year in Ames, 38-35), but KU must then go to Manhattan and Stillwater. The 'Hawks also hit the road for Colorado and Missouri, two other teams they would hope to stay on the field with. The fact that they play Oklahoma and Nebraska in Lawrence will probably make little difference.



Linebacker Willie Pless (60) was the leading tackler last year.

KANSAS JAYHAWKS

HEAD COACH: Mike Gottfried, 2nd season (4-6-1 at Kansas, 38-27-2 overall, 2-5 in Big Eight).

1983 RECORD: 4 wins, 6 losses overall (2-5 in Big Eight, tied for 6th place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (3) Bennie Simecka, 6-2, 265, Sr. C; Sylvester Byrd, 6-3, 220, Sr. TE; Robert Mims, 6-0, 190, Jr. RB.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (7) Joe Masaniai, 6-5, 240, Jr. T; Eldridge Avery, 6-3, 225, So. G; Rod Timmons, 6-4, 240, Sr. G; Len Gant, 6-1, 210, Sr. E; Darnell Williams, 6-2, 218, So. LB; Willie Pless, 6-0, 215, Jr. LB; Derek Berry, 6-3, 195, So. S.



(top to bottom) Head Coach Jim Dickey, running back Greg Dageforde and offensive tackle Damian Johnson.



Wildcats' Weber Returns To Provide Spark For Jump In Big 8

Kansas State came to life on offense after he was inserted at quarterback last year. Now Weber's back with plenty of experienced around him.

Kansas State football coach Jim Dickey took a calculated risk three football seasons ago and redshirted a large group of returning starters. The immediate result was a horrendous 2-9 campaign in 1981. The far-reaching consequences proved Dickey much smarter than he first appeared....the Wildcats went 6-5-1 in 1982 and made their first trip to a holiday bowl ever.

It was back to normality in 1983. Kansas State normality, that is. Three wins and eight losses.

But it may not be as bad as it seems. The large group of graduating seniors after that banner 1982 season left a bunch of holes to be filled last fall. And the young players who filled them got the kind of experience that should be a big help in getting K-State back to respectability this fall. One of those newcomers in particular plays a key part in Wildcat rebound hopes — and he's no youngster.

Kansas State had been completely anemic on offense through the first seven games last season. In the first three conference games the 'Cats scored only 13 points total. Then Stan Weber was brought out of obscurity and given a chance to quarterback his team. Although losing at Nebraska, 51-25, KSU put up a valiant battle and controlled the clock most of the second half. Then came a 21-20 shocker over Oklahoma State at Stillwater, with Weber orchestrating a miracle rally in the final minutes. Kansas State lost its final two games (to Iowa State and Colorado), but scored a total of 48 points in doing so.

The Wildcats' scoring average went from 13.1 to 23.5 per game during that span, with the rushing average soaring from 154 a game to 268 and total offense from 268 to 379. Even more impressive was the fact that with Weber on the bench Kansas State

recorded a 25 percent conversion rate on third downs. With him on the field, the 'Cats were 64 percent successful!

Obviously, Weber won't be enough to lift Kansas State from the basement to the first division. But Dickey has plenty of experience surrounding his former defensive back.

Only two positions will be manned by new faces on the Wildcat offense. The line should be a good one, with starters Jeff Koyl (6-5, 273, sr.) and Damian Johnson (6-5, 280, sr.) at the tackles and Bob Bessert (6-2, 252, soph) and Calvin Switzer (6-0, 256, sr.) at the guards. Johnson was second-team All-Big Eight last year and is being boomed by KSU coaches as an all-star again this season.

Weber, who hit only 51 of 108 passes (with 11 interceptions and only three touchdowns), must improve his passing. But he should have plenty of help from tight end Eric Bailey (6-5, 213, sr.) and split end Mike Wallace (6-2, 175, sr.). The latter had a sensational sophomore season, but fell off a bit last year after quarterback Darrell Ray Dickey graduated. Still, Wallace caught 32 passes for an average of 14.6 per grab.

Kansas State has seemingly always been without a real breakaway threat at running back, and things appear no different for this fall. But junior tailback Greg Dageforde (6-0, 203) rushed for 61.5 yards per game (sixth in the Big Eight) as a sophomore last year and averaged a respectable 4.4 per try. He and fullback Charles Crawford (6-1, 190, sr. with 4.3 per carry) give the 'Cats experienced, steady runners who are well suited for Dickey's ball-control offense.

Another plus for KSU will be kicker Steve Willis, a senior who holds every school field goal record already. He was seven of 11 last year on three-pointers and hit all 19 PAT kicks. He's hit 48 straight points after in his career.

Defense — or lack of it — was the real 'Cat killer last fall. Kansas State gave up 31.2 points per game (only Iowa State was more generous in the league) and was pushed around to the tune of 408.2 yards per game in total yardage.

Dickey knows he needs to find the answers to those defensive problems. "We're looking for some

real head-hunters at linebackers," he said in reference to a big part of the problem. Bob Daniels (6-3, 230, sr.) is a returning starter at one linebacker spot, but youngsters like Jeffery Hurd (6-2, 227, soph) and Scott White (6-1, 221, soph) could hold the key to how much improvement is made there. Stu Peters (5-11, 208, sr.) is the only other letterman there.

While the Wildcats do have both tackles back on defense, there are no lettermen listed on the depth chart behind Kyle Clawson (6-4, 223, sr.) and Les Miller (6-6, 251, soph). Injuries to either of the starters could be critical. Curtis Hughes (6-2, 289, soph) lettered last year as a freshman and has been the front runner at nose guard through the spring.

Miller was the Newcomer of the Year on defense in the Big Eight last fall as a freshman, although he was in on only 26 tackles. But he should be much better with a year of experience and a little more strength and bulk. He displayed great agility in knocking down six passes last fall.

With Hughes and Miller both starting, the Wildcats will be young along the front. And they will no doubt miss all-star Reggie Singletary. But Dickey and his staff feel they have a couple of potential stars in the sophomore linemen.

The K-State staff is also high on another sophomore, Grady Newton at defensive end. Although only 6-foot, 196, Newton played a lot last season and impressed. Greg Strahm (6-3, 233, jr.) started last year as a sophomore and returns at the right end. Backups David Wallace (6-0, 204, soph) and Dwayne Castille (6-0, 211, frosh) moved from linebacker to end and give the 'Cats a very green look at that position.

There is some experience in the secondary, but Dickey is seeking a lot of improvement there after his team was hurt time and again by the big play last fall.

Nelson Nickerson (5-10, 171, sr.) returns at one corner and David Ast (6-0, 174, jr.) started a year ago as a sophomore. A pair of junior lettermen hold down the other two spots. Adrian Barber (6-0, 170, jr.) led at one corner through the spring, while junior Scott Wentzel (6-0, 170) had the edge at strong safety.

Willis isn't the only kicker returning to Manhattan. Punter Scott Fulhage (5-11, 187, sr.) was second in the Big Eight last year with a 41.9-yard average per kick. In fact, KSU was first in the league in net punting as only 27 of 61 boots were returned for a total of only 136 yards.

Kansas State won two of its four non-league games last year, following losses to Long Beach State and Kentucky with wins over TCU and Wyoming. This fall the Wildcats will open at Vanderbilt, then host Tennessee Tech before a road date at TCU. The other non-league foe will be South Carolina, on the road, the week after KSU opens its Big Eight season at Norman.

Of the conference schools that Dickey can hope to stay with in the race, K-State has Kansas and Colorado at Manhattan, with a road trip to Iowa State. The 'Cats also face Missouri at Manhattan, and that could give them an edge in their quest to get back into the first division.



Quarterback Stan Weber turned the 'Cats' offense around in '83.

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

HEAD COACH: Jim Dickey, 7th season (21-45-1 overall, 11-30-1 in the Big Eight).

1983 RECORD: 3 wins, 8 losses (1-6 in Big Eight, 8th place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (10) Mike Wallace, 6-2, 175, Sr. SE; Jeff Koyl, 6-5, 273, Sr. T; Bob Bessert, 6-2, 252, So. G; Calvin Switzer, 6-0, 256, Sr. G; Damian Johnson, 6-5, 280, Sr. T; Eric Bailey, 6-5, 213, Sr. TE; Stan Weber, 6-1, 185, Sr. QB; Greg Dageforde, 6-0, 203, Jr. TB; Charles Crawford, 6-1, 190, Sr. FB; Steve Willis, 6-2, 194, Sr. K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (7) Kyle Clawson, 6-4, 223, Sr. T; Les Miller, 6-6, 251, So. T; Greg Strahm, 6-3, 233, Jr. E; Bob Daniels, 6-3, 230, Sr. LB; David Ast, 6-0, 174, Jr. FS; Nelson Nickerson, 5-10, 171, Sr. CB; Scott Fulhage, 5-11, 187, Sr. P.

Powers Says Tigers Close To Being Great Football Team



(top to bottom) Head Coach Warren Powers, quarterback Marlon Adler and defensive back Jerome Caver.

Missouri coach says this squad has got the ingredients for greatness, and competition for jobs in spring indicate he may be right.

Missouri football fans were given a huge off-season dose of good news this past winter when it was learned that quarterback Marlon Adler had been awarded an extra year of eligibility. Adler was too busy trying to get his starting job back from Warren Seitz, however, to fully savor the NCAA ruling.

That, perhaps, is a good way to sum up the picture in Columbia. As good as the Tigers were last year, they should be even better in 1984. The players who aren't ready to be better won't have starting positions any more.

"We're closer now to being a great football team than we've ever been," said Powers at the conclusion of spring drills. And Mizzou was not bad last fall, finishing second in the Big Eight after blanking Oklahoma and just missing an upset of Nebraska. Only a loss to Kansas in the regular season finale and a Holiday Bowl loss to Brigham Young clouded an otherwise superb Bengal year — including a victory over Rose Bowl-bound Illinois in the opener.

Adler and a vicious defense were the keys to that 7-5 campaign of 1983. The 6-foot, 183-pounder was seventh in the nation in passing efficiency with a 141.1 rating. The former walkon player passed for 1,603 yards and rushed for another 480 (before subtracting sacks). He was given the extra year after an NCAA ruling which gave a redshirt year to

freshmen who played sparingly their true freshman year when rookies were not permitted to be redshirted. That rule has since been changed, so that freshmen can be redshirted.

Despite his success last year, Adler found himself battling from behind against Seitz most of the spring. A 6-4, 220 junior who was widely recruited out of Topeka, Kansas, Seitz has finally come into his own. After leading the depth chart most of the spring, Seitz suffered a shoulder injury in the last moments of the Black-Gold scrimmage (won by Adler's Gold team, 19-12). It was the same shoulder he separated in high school.

In that spring finale Seitz threw for one score, a 63-yarder to split end Andy Hill. Adler scored on a 10-yard run and gave indications that he's nearing 100 percent recovery from an ankle injury which bothered him last season.

Regardless of who starts at quarterback, the Tigers feel they'll have the best in the Big Eight — and certainly the best depth in the league. The rest of the Mizzou backfield will be experienced, though not of such star-studded quality.

The best is Eric Drain, a 6-2, 207 junior fullback who was fifth in the Big Eight in rushing last fall with more than 62 yards per game (a 4.1 average per carry). He shared time with Santio Barbosa, a 6-0, 203 junior who rushed for 33.4 yards per contest (4.0).

Jon Redd (5-11, 192, soph) started at tailback last fall as a freshman, but carried only 48 times (for a fine 5.7 average per try) in the season for a 25-yard average per game. Redd will have trouble keeping his starting job, however, as Manny Henry (a transfer from Minnesota) was the spring game's leading rusher with 74 yards in 13 carries and drew this praise from Powers: "Manny is the guy the defensive players don't like to tackle. He's got a lot of power, good knee action and speed. I really like the tailbacks — all of them. I don't want to go into the season being a quarterback-fullback team again."

Others who showed well at tailback during the spring were sophomore Herbert "Junebug"



Johnson (he scored the Gold's winning TD from 12 yards out) and Darrell Wallace. Vern Boyd was highly regarded, but was sidelined early in the spring with lower back problems.

Hill, a 5-9, 164 senior, will be back at split end, with senior George Shorthose holding down the flanker job. Tight end Tony Davis is a 6-5, 238 senior who has lettered three years, but was battling junior Pat Thetford (6-4, 220) and Joe Close (6-5, 232, jr.) for the starting job.

The offensive line will have to be almost completely rebuilt. Center Phil Greenfield (6-1, 250) is the only returning starter. But tackle John Clay (6-5, 280, soph) and guard Phil Pettey (6-4, 265, frosh) had impressive springs (before Pettey was felled with an injury) and tackle Dave Kniptash (6-6, 278, jr.) is expected to be a good one. Mike Penny (6-03, 248, jr.) and Nick Llewellyn (6-2, 266, sr.) are also in the picture at guard.

Defensively, the Tigers should be as good as there is in the Big Eight. Although losing both defensive ends (Bobby Bell and Taft Sales), Mizzou welcomes back the entire middle of the defense, as well as one linebacker and two defensive backs who started.

Tackles Michael Scott (6-5, 275, soph) and Robert Curry (6-3, 264) are big and physical. Nose guard Steve Leshe (6-2, 255, jr.) is solid in the middle. And there are senior lettermen behind each. Scott promises to be one of the best in the Big Eight before he finishes his career.

Lenson Staples (6-4, 240, sr.) and Eric Troy (6-1, 202, jr.) held the edge at the ends going into spring drills. Both have run the 40 in less than 4.7 seconds.

Tracey Mack (6-0, 222, sr.) made a successful conversion from running back to linebacker last year. He returns, but graduating Jay Wilson will be tough to replace. Mack missed all of spring practice while recovering from lower back surgery.

Junior Buck Stinson (6-3, 219) was the early frontrunner at the strongside linebacker. But the Tigers got strong showings in the spring from newcomers like Mike Vestweber (converted from end) and walk-on Andy Rynard, as well as Sam Harris, who red-shirted due to injury problems a year ago. Freshman Steve Vandegriff is also in the picture. Mack has been moved to the strongside spot, as he will be calling defensive signals, with Vestweber claiming the starting job at weakside backer at the end of spring.

The fastest Tiger is cornerback Terry Matichak (6-2, 190, sr.), who joins strong safety Jerome Caver (5-11, 191, sr.) as returnees from last year's secondary. Anthony Frazier (6-3, 187) is a highly regarded sophomore who holds an edge at free safety, while Jeff Hooper (6-0, 172, sr.) was the leader at the other corner.

Matichak and Burns received top honors on defense in the spring finale.

Brad Burditt kicked a pair of field goals in the Black-Gold game. The 6-2, 197 senior started for the Bengals a year ago, hitting 11 of 15 field goal attempts and 31 of 33 extra point kicks.

Adler doubled as the Tigers' punter last season, averaging 38.7 per kick. Todd Richmond is a veteran who could do either job if Burditt or Adler can't.



Fullback Eric Drain led the Tigers in rushing last fall.

MISSOURI TIGERS

HEAD COACH: Warren Powers, 7th season (43-26-2 at Missouri, 50-30-2 overall, 22-18-2 in Big Eight).

1983 RECORD: 7 wins, 5 losses (5-2 in the Big Eight, tied for 2nd place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (6) Andy Hill, 5-9, 164, Sr. SE; Phil Greenfield, 6-1, 250, Sr. C; Marlon Adler, 6-0, 183, Jr. QB; Jon Redd, 5-11, 192, So. RB; Eric Drain, 6-2, 207, Jr. FB; Brad Burditt, 6-2, 197, Sr. K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (7) Michael Scott, 6-5, 275, So. T; Steve Leshe, 6-2, 255, Jr. NG; Robert Curry, 6-3, 264, Sr. T; Tracey Mack, 6-0, 222, Sr. WLB; Terry Matichak, 6-2, 190, Sr. CB; Jerome Caver, 5-10, 191, Sr. SS; Marlon Adler, 6-0, 183, Jr. P.



(top to bottom) Head Coach Tom Osborne, I-back Jeff Smith and defensive back Bret Clark.



Huskers Rebuild Offense, But Use Only Top Quality Replacements

Nebraska can't replace the Triplets and Steinkuhler — or can it? Osborne thrives on this kind of challenge as he chases fourth straight.

Bring in a psychologist, a psychiatrist, Norman Vincent Peale, players' mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. Bring in anybody and everybody who has something good to say about Nebraska's defense.

Better yet, bring in the players and coaches themselves because this year, the Huskers believe they can win a Big Eight championship on defense.

Going into spring practice, that was the power of positive thinking. Coming out of it, that was a genuine belief. You can put the "D" back in defense and the "Black" back in "Black Shirts."

Nebraska has regained its pride on "the other side of the football."

Charlie McBride, Nebraska's defensive coordinator, issued the warning last January that no one, absolutely no one, had a starting defensive job sewn up going into spring practice.

McBride did not win friends and influence nine returning starters. But the hard-hitting message delivered some hard-hitting results.

Every returning Nebraska defensive starter has his job heading into 1984 fall camp and every one survived some fairly high-powered competition.

Black Shirts were not gifts. They were rewards.

"We're going to be better on defense. How much better, I don't know," said Tom Osborne.

Nebraska's head coach, however, hopes the Huskers have developed new depth, new heart and a new pattern for winning.

"Points won't come as easily this year, so we're hoping to compensate with a better defense," Osborne said. "We hope to see the defensive team that played against Penn State and UCLA instead of the one that played against Iowa State and Miami."

"But the way we played on defense the last half of the season was disappointing. We should have gotten better, but went downhill. We didn't progress. If anything, we got worse. This year, we hope we get better and stay there."

With the right kind of breaks, the Huskers might even have a couple of All-American candidates on defense in safety Bret Clark and end Scott Strasburger.

Coming off ankle surgery during the off-season, Clark didn't have a chance to showcase his speed and ability during the spring.

But Nebraska coaches saw enough improvement in Strasburger to remind them of another All-American defensive end Bob Martin.

"Scott's a Bob Martin type of player," offered George Darlington, NU's defensive end coach. "He's a little undersized (6-1, 208). But if he'd ever been redshirted, we might be projecting him as an All-American right now."

"He probably won't even get a smell for All-American," added Darlington. "But five or six big plays in the right game and you'll see the comparison to Martin."

Strasburger, a 1983 Academic All-American with a 3.82 grade-point-average in pre-med, played during the spring with considerably greater physical force.

He insists the new element to his style was not by accident. "After listening to all the things said about our defense last year, we've all decided to be more physical," Strasburger said.

"It's the old adage that the more hard hitting you watch on film, the more you have a tendency to be frightened," added Strasburger. "That's what we've got to get back in our opponents' minds they're going to see a lot more physical and a lot more aggressive defense."

That physical and aggressive style was epitomized all spring by Ken Graeber, the Huskers' 6-2, 250-pound senior walk-on middle guard.

Even though he's one of two first-unit defenders who isn't a returning starter, Graeber was considered the Black Shirts' spring role model.

"There's no 'I' in team," said McBride, using Graeber as his primary example.

"Really, you could count Graeber as a returning starter this year," McBride said. "He was going to start the last game (against Miami). But he wouldn't do it. Mike Tranmer was a senior and Graeber

wanted him to start."

To McBride, that's sacrifice. "That's the kind of player Graeber is...one who thinks more of his teammates than himself. That's the kind of player we need," McBride said. "He's really intense. He plays hard every play. That's definitely the kind of player we've got to have. We've got to have players who never quit. Unless you have 11 that way, you're susceptible."

Graeber admits motivation hasn't been difficult.

"I definitely don't want another year like we had last year where the press was always talking about what a great team we had except for the defense," he said.

"A lot of my close friends are on offense. But it was a clear-cut point that the defense was the ones holding the team back. To be good this year, we have to have a really good defense."

Although Graeber admits he's "not really qualified to judge," he's convinced the goal is reasonable. "All I can say is it's bound to be better," he said.

"We're one year older and one year wiser. College football is mainly experience, at least a good percentage of it is. We've got intense players who have been together a long time. We all feel we could have done a lot better last year."

Defensive tackle Chris Spachman and linebacker Marc Munford are the newcomers to this veteran defensive cast. Spachman, coming off a redshirt season, has future All-Big Eight possibilities. Munford will start as a true sophomore.

Graeber and defensive tackle Rob Stuckey should be All-Big Eight candidates this year. Other returning starters include defensive end Bill Weber, linebacker Mark Daum, monster Mike McCashland and cornerbacks Dave Burke and Neil Harris.

"We're going to have to work harder than last year's team," Harris said. "We're going to have to work harder than anybody else in the Big Eight."

The Huskers return three starters on offense; center Mark Traynowicz, guard Harry Grimmering and tackle Mark Behning.

"We should be good on the left side of the line," said Osborne, who also considers fullback Tom Rathman and split end Scott Kimball "the equivalent of starters" after they logged starting duty last year.

Even though I-back Jeff Smith played behind Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier, he's also a proven runner with all-conference possibilities.

Osborne hopes the other question marks quarterback Craig Sundberg, wingback Shane Swanson, guard Greg Orton, tackle Tom Morrow and tight end Brian Hiemer convert into exclamation points.

At Nebraska, the key question is: Can quantity offset the quality lost among five players who signed pro contracts worth an estimated \$12 million?

"Last year, we only had eight starters back, but people didn't worry because of who they were," Osborne said.

"This year," he added, "even though we have almost twice as many starters back, people tend to think of it the other way around. They think we're starting from scratch and we really aren't."



Paul Miles is one of several speedsters in the NU backfield.

NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

HEAD COACH: Tom Osborne, 12th season (108-25-2 overall, 63-13-1 in the Big Eight).

1983 RECORD: 12 wins, 1 loss overall (7-0 in Big Eight, 1st place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (3) Mark Behning, 6-7, 290, Sr. T; Harry Grimmering, 6-3, 260, Sr. G; Mark Traynowicz, 6-6, 260, Sr. C.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (10) Bill Weber, 6-1, 210, Sr. E; Rob Stuckey, 6-3, 250, Sr. T; Scott Strassburger, 6-1, 205, Sr. E; Mark Daum, 6-3, 230, Sr. SLB; Mike Knox, 6-3, 235, Sr. WLB; Neil Harris, 6-1, 195, Sr. CB; Mike McCashland, 6-1, 195, Sr. MON; Dave Burke, 5-10, 195, Sr. CB; Bret Clark, 6-2, 200, Sr. S; Scott Livingston, 6-2, 200, Sr. K-P.



(top to bottom) Head Coach Barry Switzer, defensive tackle Jeff Tupper and strong safety Keith Stanberry.



Sooners Hanging Hopes On Return Of The Wishbone Magic

Oklahoma was hit hard by graduation on defense, but the return to the Wishbone — with a new emphasis on the pass — had optimism high in the spring.

Oklahoma has been through two Big Eight Conference seasons without the Wishbone. And they haven't been fun years. The Sooners lost to Nebraska both years and were shut out by Missouri last fall. The I formation offense, adopted the week before OU opened its 1982 league campaign at Ames, Iowa, was never the menace of the Midlands that the Wishbone had been the decade before.

In 1980, the last year the Sooners won the Big Eight and went to the Orange Bowl, Oklahoma scored an average of 40 points per game in the league — including bursts of 82 against Colorado and 63 against Oklahoma State. During the last two seasons in the I formation, OU has averaged 29.85 points per game. The Sooners average of only 270 yards per game rushing was one of the lowest figures in this modern era.

So it was hardly a surprise when Oklahoma brought in a new offensive coordinator this past winter who had credentials as a point-maker. And it was even less of a surprise when the Sooners spent most of the spring mixing Mack Brown's passing offense with the Wishbone.

The final report, of course, will not be in for a few months. However, it was obvious this spring that OU has put together a much more diversified offense. The combination of the Wishbone, Brown's knowledge of the aerial game and nine returning full-time starters — plus the emergence of Danny Bradley as the right kind of quarterback for the new offense — almost guarantee that the Sooners will be able to strike in more ways with more lethal weapons this fall.

Head Coach Barry Switzer, however, warns that his team may have to strike more...a lot more.

Only four legitimate starters will be back this fall

on defense. And, in a league which is becoming more and more offensive, that could be a real problem.

One of those starters is end Kevin Murphy, who just might be the best defensive end the Sooners have had. He's a big play specialist who has been somewhat lost in the shadow of two-time All-American Ricky Bryan (the ninth pick overall in the NFL draft). Murphy was, however, the defensive player of the year in the Big Eight as voted by the UPI.

Oklahoma lost two others who started and split time at end, and lost its three top defensive tackles and two starting linebackers. That's a lot of rebuilding.

The nucleus for the line will be nose guard Tony Casillas, a 6-foot-3, 275-pound junior who shared that job last year with Tommy Flemons. The latter has been moved to tackle and wound up the spring starting on the right side. Strong safety Keith Stanberry (6-1, 205) has started as a sophomore and junior at OU and will be back for his final season, although a broken collarbone sidelined him in the spring. Jim Rockford (5-10, 180) started at one corner in 1983, but was being pushed in the spring by talented newcomer Percy Hines, who played some on both offense and defense as a freshman.

There's not much more starting experience available for defensive coordinator Gary Gibbs. Sonny Brown (6-2, 200) played enough as a fifth defensive back last year to move in at free safety and fill the void left by Scott Case. And Brian Hall saw quite a bit of duty at one corner, although he was moved to strong safety in the spring and impressed.

There will be a lot of new faces on the field when OU opponents have the ball next fall. Jeff Tupper (6-5, 260) had an outstanding spring at one tackle, although he needs to get bigger and stronger before September. Steve Bryan (6-3, 240) was moved from end to nose guard and then to tackle, where he showed signs of being ready to play as a sophomore. Although Scott Newland and Mike Mantle have an experience edge at end, redshirt freshman Darrell Reed (6-2, 210) is the probable choice to start opposite Murphy.

Paul Migliazzo (6-1, 230) appeared to be coming into his own last fall when he was shelved with an injury. He resumed his impressive ways at linebacker this spring and will be a starter on the strong side if healthy. His backing mate will be either Evan Gatewood (6-2, 225) or redshirt frosh Brian Bosworth (6-2, 215).

Adding depth to the secondary will be redshirt frosh David Vickers at free safety and Andre Johnson at one corner, while Todd Smith, Roy Owens, Tony Rayburn and Robert Williams should also see playing time.

The Sooners had two freshmen running backs last year who broke the school record for rushing yardage in a season set by Marcus Dupree in 1982. And Earl Johnson and Spencer Tillman seem much more suited to the Wishbone than they were to the I. Getting both of them in the lineup will be the trick, and Mack Brown did that by putting Johnson back at fullback (with Tillman at one half and three-year starter Steve Sewell at the other) this spring.

Things will get a bit more complicated this fall, however, as former starter Fred Sims is expected to return and a stable of touted freshmen check in to camp. Also, veterans Alvin Ross and Jerome Ledbetter are looking for playing time.

Bradley firmly established himself as the No. 1 quarterback through spring drills. The 5-10, 185 senior hit his first nine passes in the spring finale and was on target throughout the 20-day push. He is also able to better utilize his running skills from the Wishbone. Mike Clopton enhanced his No. 2 position on the depth chart, but is more of a passer than a runner.

When the Sooners throw, they'll have some of the best receiving threats in the Big Eight. Buster Rhymes (6-4, 215) made the move to split end last year in outstanding fashion. And Derrick Shepard, who shared time at flanker with Sewell last year, teamed with Rhymes in the spring to give OU a devastating one-two punch at split end.

The tight end job is still up for grabs, but junior letterman Darin Berryhill (6-5, 250) came on strong enough at the end of the spring to take the lead. Freshman Keith Jackson (a prep All-American) could be good enough to challenge for playing time by the time the Big Eight season begins.

Along the front on offense OU has a wealth of experience, but memories of injuries and penalties from 1983. The switch to the Wishbone is expected to help productivity. So is the switch from defense to offense by heralded frosh Greg Johnson (6-5, 280).

Center Chuck Thomas (6-3, 275) was All-Big Eight a year ago, while Jeff Pickett (6-1, 270) started some as a true freshman. Brent Burks (6-7, 270) returns at one tackle, while David Dillingham (6-5, 265) had a good spring and held off the challenge of Johnson. Tim Randolph and Eric Pope, starters at guard a year ago, missed spring ball due to injuries and off-season surgery. But Pickett and redshirt Paul Ferrer (6-1, 260) looked solid there. The offensive line should be a Sooner strong suit in 1984.

The kicking game was inconsistent a year ago and the same kickers return. But both have the benefit of a year's experience. Darren Atyia finished the season as a strong punter and OU coaches are confident he will have an even better sophomore year. Placement specialist Tim Lashar kicked a game-winner at Oklahoma State, then struggled through much of the stretch.



Quarterback Danny Bradley welcomes the return to the Wishbone.

OKLAHOMA SOONERS

HEAD COACH: Barry Switzer, 12th season (106-21-2 overall, 67-9-1 in the Big Eight).

1983 RECORD: 8 wins, 4 losses (5-2 in the Big Eight, tied for 2nd place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (15) Brent Burks, 6-7, 270, Sr. T; Jeff Pickett, 6-1, 270, So. G; Chuck Thomas, 6-3, 270, Sr. C; Eric Pope, 6-2, 270, Jr. G; Scott Leggett, 6-5, 270, Jr. T; Buster Rhymes, 6-4, 215, Sr. SE; Danny Bradley, 5-10, 185, Sr. QB; Spencer Tillman, 5-11, 205, So. RB; Earl Johnson, 5-11, 200, So. RB; Jerome Ledbetter, 5-10, 215, Sr. FB; Steve Sewell, 6-4, 200, Sr. RB; David Dillingham, 6-5, 270, Sr. T; Paul Clewis, 6-1, 200, Sr. SE; Derrick Shepard, 5-11, 180, So. SE; Tim Lashar, 5-10, 175, So. K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (6) Tony Casillas, 6-3, 275, Jr. NG; Tommy Flemons, 6-3, 250, Sr. T; Kevin Murphy, 6-2, 230, Sr. E; Jim Rockford, 5-10, 180, Sr. CB; Keith Stanberry, 6-1, 205, Sr. SS; Darren Atyia, 6-1, 200, So. P.



(top to bottom) Head Coach Jimmy Johnson, defensive tackle Leslie O'Neal and running back Shawn Jones.



Cowboys Have The Horses To Lasso Big 8 Title For Jimmy

Oklahoma State has a wealth of experience and momentum returning from last year's bowl champion squad. This could be the year the Pokes return to the top.

Tradition. There's good tradition and there's bad tradition. Oklahoma State has been fighting to get over the hump and into the good tradition area in Big Eight football since joining the league in 1958. So far, however, the most notable tradition the Cowboys have established is one of inconsistency.

Jimmy Johnson surprised everyone when he took the Pokes to a 7-4 record his first year in Stillwater (1979). That was just a couple of seasons after OSU had battled to a three-way tie for the league championship — its first taste of the top. The Cowboys were seemingly on their way then. They had Terry Miller back the next year for what many hoped would be a Heisman Trophy year. Jim Stanley was being toasted as a great coach, if not a great TV personality. Tradition was just around the corner.

Stanley was being booed out of town two years later after O-State went 4-7 and 3-8, winning only five of 14 conference tests.

Enter Johnson, the man with the big smile and neatly groomed hair. After road losses (to Arkansas, South Carolina) early in that maiden season, the Pokes rebounded to win their last three, go 7-4 on the season and 5-2 in the Big Eight, including a crucial 14-13 win over Missouri in Columbia.

More of the same was expected — even predicted — in 1980. Instead, the Cowboys opened by losing to West Texas State, Arkansas, Washington, Missouri and Nebraska and never really recovered. They finished the year at 3-7-1 with a 2-4-1 league mark. From rags to riches and back to rags. And then back to riches in 1981, winning seven of 11 regular season games before a 33-16 Independence Bowl loss to Texas A&M. It was back to mediocrity in 1982, as Johnson suffered through a 4-5-2 season when OSU fans expected more. Naturally, 1983 produced a winner — an 8-4 season which was

climaxed by a victory in the Bluebonnet Bowl over Baylor. In fact, Oklahoma State was the only team from the Big Eight or Southwest Conference to win a bowl game.

With nine starters returning on offense and seven on defense from that team, the Cowboys would appear to be a solid candidate to win the Big Eight championship. But there's all that tradition....

Even that 8-4 season of a year ago was tainted by two unbelievable failures: 21-20 losses to Oklahoma and Kansas State when the Pokes appeared to have a lock on victory. They were the kind of losses that only OSU seems to be able to manufacture. And, until Johnson and his Orange Power boys put together two or three of those bowl seasons in a row and avoid "miracle rallies" by their foes (Tulsa two years ago and a couple of stunners against Colorado in recent years), Okie State will continue to be shadowed by its "Aggie Image."

If there was ever a year in which to turn things around, this would seem to be it. Not only do the Boys have all that experience returning, they also have more momentum than any team in the conference, a key junior college transfer who should help right away and what has been called the school's best recruiting class in memory.

An example of how deep OSU is can be found in some of the stats from the spring. Shawn Jones (6-foot-1, 220-pound senior halfback) was third in the Big Eight last year in rushing with 92 yards per game and a 4.4-yard average per carry. In the spring finale, however, Jones took a back seat to junior flyer Kenny Zachary (6-foot, 204), who rushed for more than 220 yards.

And Jones, remember, was a replacement last year for Heisman hopeful Ernest Anderson, who missed most of the campaign with an injury.

The biggest problem at OSU in more than just recent years has been at quarterback. Even last season opened with no clear-cut choice behind the center. But Rusty Hilger (6-4, 205, sr.) established himself by throwing for 1,129 yards on 82 of 154 with only 10 interceptions. Hilger ripped Baylor's secondary to shreds in the Bluebonnet Bowl before leaving at intermission with an injury. He was superb throughout the spring.

The Poke faithful should find out early if Hilger's show against Baylor was indicative of what he is capable of doing in the Big Eight. Oklahoma State opens at Arizona State, then entertains Bowling Green and dangerous San Diego State before going

to Tulsa to finish up its non-conference tuneup. Then it's on to Lincoln and the big test against Nebraska.

Hilger should have at least one top receiving threat in senior Jamie Harris, his diminutive flanker who caught 42 passes for 559 yards and six touchdowns last year. Split end Malcolm Lewis (6-3, 215) was good enough to start as a freshman last fall and snatched 21 passes from the air for 363 yards. The offensive line will be built around center David Tucker (6-2, 265, jr.), Ralph Partida (6-3, 246, sr.) and Paul Blair (6-4, 252, jr.).

It is likely that Jones and Zachary will both see a lot of duty at tailback. They may be good enough that a pair of heralded running backs out of Texas can be redshirted as freshmen. Fullback is also well stocked with experience, although starter Kelly Cook (5-11, 210, sr.) has never been quite what the Pokes have wanted there and he may have trouble keeping his job.

The Oklahoma State defense has been one of the more consistent in the league the past few years. The Pokes give yardage and points grudgingly. And Johnson has seven starters back from last year's unit which was third in the league in total yardage (306), second in rushing defense (102) and first in scoring defense (13.5 points per game).

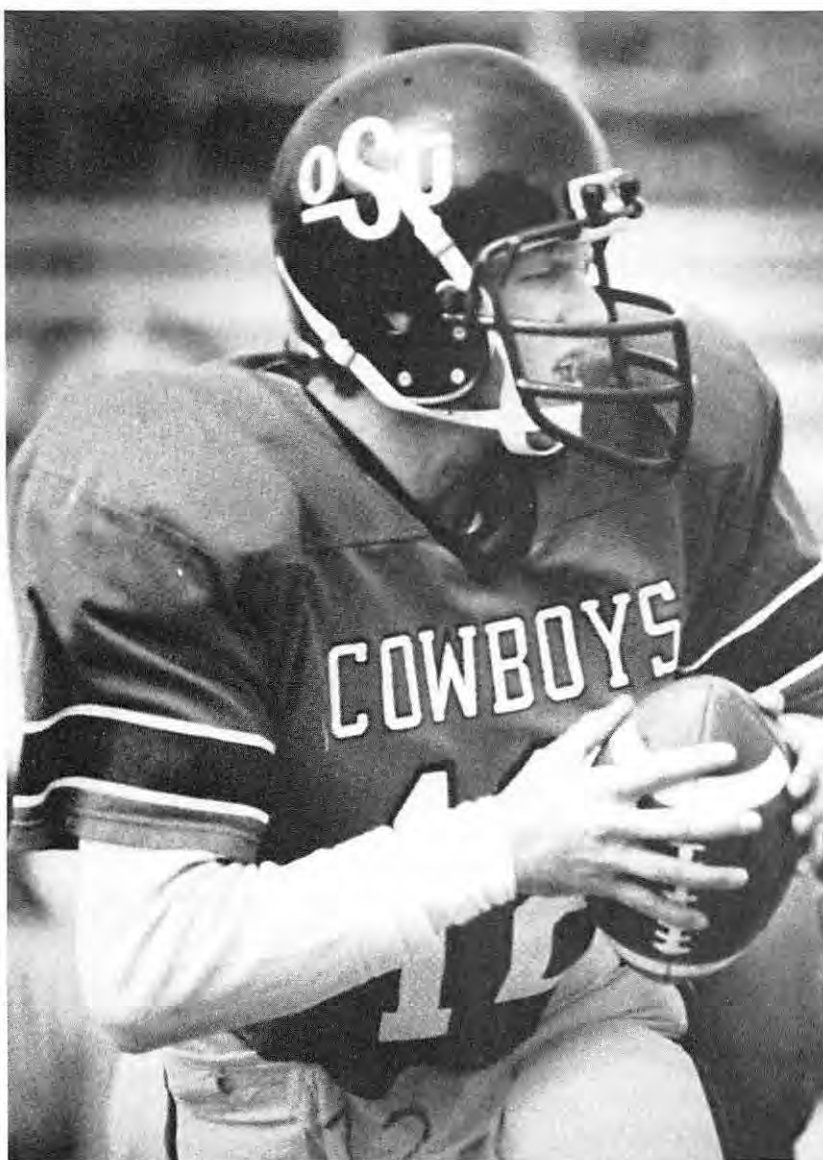
The ends should be solid with James Ham (6-2, 224, jr.) and Harry Roberts (6-2, 206, jr.). The latter has played tailback, safety and returned kickoffs. He's still looking for his most comfortable position on the field. Tackles Rodney Harding (6-5, 265, sr.) and Leslie O'Neal (6-4, 228, jr.) are two of the league's best, particularly at making the big play. The two almost evenly split 27 tackles for losses last season. No other interior lineman in the conference was in double figures.

The Cowboys are hoping for even more improvement from nose guard John Washington, an impressive physical specimen at 6-5, 265. Matt Monger (6-2, 215, sr.) is the only starting linebacker back, but juco transfer Ricky Adams (6-2, 225) is rated one of the best prospects around and had a fine spring.

The one weak link in the OSU defensive chain in recent years has been the secondary. Even though much improved a year ago, the Pokes still ranked seventh in the league in yardage given up (over 200 yards per game). And they lost three starters from that secondary.

Converted quarterback Adam Hinds (6-3, 205, sr.) is the only returnee, and he's a dandy. The lanky free safety was second in the league in interceptions last fall with seven. Cornerback Stanley Blair (6-0, 190) has had some experience, while Rod Brown (6-3, 185) tried to hold off the charge of highly touted youngster Mike Hudson (6-2, 195, soph) at strong safety. Mark Moore (6-0, 185) was listed through the spring at the other corner, but that's one area where the Cowboys could use some help in the fall from their rookie class.

Kicker Larry Roach has been one of the nation's best from the day he first booted a ball at Stillwater. He's a senior this season and sure to break many of the league standards for placement specialists.



The Pokes are counting on quarterback Rusty Hilger.

OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

HEAD COACH: Jimmy Johnson, 6th season (29-25-3 overall, 17-15-3 in Big Eight).
1983 RECORD: 8 wins, 4 losses (3-4 in the Big Eight, tied for 4th place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (9) Malcolm Lewis, 6-3, 215, So. SE; David Tucker, 6-2, 265, Jr. C; Ralph Partida, 6-3, 246, Sr. G; Paul Blair, 6-4, 252, Jr. T; Rusty Hilger, 6-4, 205, Sr. QB; Shawn Jones, 6-1, 220, Sr. RB; Kelly Cook, 5-11, 210, Sr. FB; Jamie Harris, 5-10, 163, Sr. FL; Larry Roach, 6-1, 175, Sr. K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (7) James Ham, 6-2, 224, Jr. E; Rodney Harding, 6-2, 230, Sr. T; John Washington, 6-5, 265, Jr. NG; Leslie O'Neal, 6-4, 228, Jr. T; Harry Roberts, 6-2, 206, Jr. E; Matt Monger, 6-2, 215, Sr. LB; Adam Hinds, 6-3, 205, Sr. FS.



Knee Surgery For Pressure On Rookie

But talent and depth at linebacker should be enough to offset the loss of former freshman star as Parsons, Munford and Forch prepare to step in until teammate returns in 1985.

By Randy York

It was 2:30 a.m., Sunday, April 29. The elevator door opened on the fourth floor of Lincoln's Saint Elizabeth's Community Health Center.

A suspicious-looking character tiptoed out of the elevator, trying to make leather soles sound like stocking feet.

He cringed a little, thinking the elevator was going to slam behind him. It didn't. The clandestine game continued. He peeked around the corridor to see if anyone in the nurse's station heard the noise.

In a matter of seconds, the coast was clear. Our 6-2, 225-pound intruder had the smile of a jewel thief who just cracked the safe in an upstairs bedroom during a sophisticated party.

Marc Munford shuffled quickly into Room 443 and smiled again. The man in the hospital bed glanced away from the late-night video on television and smiled back.

"I knew you'd show up," said Mike Knox. "I just knew it."

Knox, Nebraska's senior All-Big Eight strongside linebacker from Castle Rock, Colo., was only a few hours from undergoing knee surgery that would sideline him for the 1984 season.

Munford, the Huskers' No. 1 sophomore weakside linebacker from Littleton, Colo., wasn't about to let a friend "go under the knife" without a show of support.

"I knew I wasn't supposed to be there,

but I had to sneak into his room," Munford said. "I lasted about 15 minutes before they discovered me and kicked me out. But I was back up there at six o'clock. I wanted Mike to know I was with him all the way."

Knox, of course, will be the support person next season. The reconstructive surgery on the anterior cruciate ligament

in his left knee will require six to nine months of rehabilitation. It also will precipitate a redshirt season this fall.

"It looks like I've got a new assistant coach," said NU linebacker coach John Melton. "Knoxie wants to be a football coach anyway. We'll just start him a little early. At least he's never redshirted, so he can come back the next year and be as good



Kevin Parsons buries another runner in the spring game. The Springfield, Mo., freshman was credited with four tackles, three of them unassisted, in the finale.

Knox Puts Trio

as new."

Knox's injury, suffered in the first quarter of the spring game, sent the Huskers into a major reshuffling at linebacker.

Munford and Kevin Parsons, the two freshman linebacker standouts, had been the talk of the spring before Knox went down. Afterwards, they became even hotter topics.

"We weren't going to redshirt those two anyway. Now, we can't redshirt another freshman either," Melton said. "We're going to have to get Steve Forch ready to play, too."

It's ironic. Three years ago, Knox plowed new ground. "He was the first linebacker since I've been here to play varsity right away," Melton said. "Almost all our linebackers redshirt. Now, we're going to have three play in the same year without redshirting."

Parsons is a 6-2, 230-pound sophomore from Springfield, Mo. Forch is a 6-1, 220-pound sophomore from Lincoln.

Those three won't absorb all the pressure caused by Knox's exit. But it's not in-

conceivable that they will be three of the Huskers' top four linebackers next season, joining returning starter Mark Daum.

Munford finished a hair ahead of Daum in the spring sweepstakes at weakside linebacker.

"It appears Munford's going to have to be a starter for sure now," NU Coach Tom Osborne said. "We're moving Daum back over to No. 1 on the strong side and we'll just have to see from there."

Officially, junior Chad Daffer will begin fall camp No. 2 and Forch No. 3 behind Munford on the weak side. Parsons will begin fall camp No. 2 and junior Todd Proffitt No. 3 behind Daum on the strong side.

"Before Knox got hurt, we were in good shape with our top four people," Osborne said. "Even with Knox hurt, we're not all that bad at linebacker. Now, we've got three ready to play and three others who've got a chance."

Initially, Forch was the odd man out. After missing most of spring practice with a knee injury, he was almost a cinch to redshirt.

"I bruised my left knee the first scrimmage, sat out a week, then hurt it again in the second scrimmage," Forch said. "After they drained 30 CC's of dark red blood the second week, I spent most of the spring in a Whirlpool."

Almost every day before practice, Daum reminded Forch of the war he was missing.

Forch doesn't remember a day when he didn't field the same sarcastic question: "Are you going to practice today?"

The obvious answer always sparked the same Mark Daum editorial comment: "You can't make the club in a tub."

"I hated to hear that," Forch said, admitting that after awhile, he resigned himself to a redshirt season.

"I planned on working out this summer. I wouldn't have blown it off," he said. "But I was kind of looking forward to a redshirt season."

Knox's injury "puts it in a whole different perspective for me," added Forch. "My thinking is totally opposite from what it was. The door's open. Now, there's no way to take it easy."

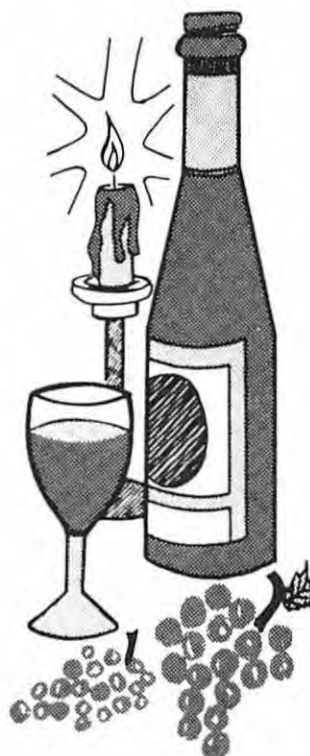
Melton said Forch's chances of redshirting are "almost nil. We were real high on him before he got hurt. He can run like the dickens. He tested out as the best all-around athlete at linebacker in winter conditioning. He's got speed and he's aggressive. I've got a lot of faith in him. We have to get him ready to play."

John Melton vows he will not make the same mistake he made last year.

"Knox and Daum were good linebackers last year, but they never did get a chance to rest," he said. "I never felt I had anybody to replace them with."

Consequently, when the season wound down and the stakes got higher, "we had

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Parsons

a lot of problems," Melton said. "Linebackers tend to get pounded on. Our offense scored so fast, they got pounded on even more. At the end of the year, those two were pretty well played out."

The week before the Oklahoma game, Knox needed three days to rest a bruised body. Daum was coming off arthroscopic knee surgery, but played against the Sooners anyway.

On the week before the OU game, Nebraska fans became familiar with the names of Marc Munford and Kevin Parsons. Both freshmen made the Huskers' 60-man travel roster to Norman.

According to NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride, they made it because they studied film, they asked questions and they played with a confidence beyond their years.

Although the stage was set last November for their meteoric rise this April, there was no guarantee that Munford would overtake a veteran like Daum.

"Daum had the best spring practice he's ever had, by quite a ways," Melton said. "He wouldn't be as good as he is right now if Munford hadn't pushed him like he did."

Shortly after the Orange Bowl, the idea was hot that Munford would move from linebacker to defensive end.

"But I vetoed that one," Melton said. "He's the fastest linebacker we've got."

Despite his size, Munford ran a :04.72 in the 40 during winter conditioning. Converting to a handheld clocking, that's :04.52.

That speed, combined with an equal amount of determination, set a standard for all Husker linebackers in the spring.

"Everybody from the bottom pushed everybody up," Knox said. "So even the guy on top had to get better or he was going down. Daum and I had all the experience, but the other guys closed the gap fast. That's the way it should be. That's the

way you build a great program. We should have four or five linebackers who can play on any Big Eight team."

Before Knox's injury, the Huskers had four. Now, they'll find a fourth among Daffer, Forch and Proffitt.

Munford is already there and this fall, he can't wait to realize a dream he's had since childhood. Even though he grew up in Colorado, he's always been a Husker fan.

His father, Jim, was a standout basketball player at Lincoln Northeast High School and Nebraska Wesleyan University. "As soon as they offered me a scholarship, I knew I was coming here," Munford said.

Parsons required a little more prodding before choosing Nebraska over Missouri, Arkansas and Colorado. But once he made up his mind, he sounded like an 18-year-

recruits, but it did to me. I looked at it this way. If Big Red fans can get that excited all over the country, there was a good possibility that I could get even more excited."

Kevin Parsons was one of those athletes who knew a lot about Nebraska before he even made his visit. "I read the press guide, every issue of *Huskers Illustrated*, everything I could get my hands on," he said. "I read it all. I knew the program and what to expect before I even got there."

Parsons said his recruiting visit to Nebraska couldn't have gone any smoother. "I saw every square inch of that whole athletic complex," he said. "They were incredibly thorough."

The Huskers were also more people-oriented than their recruiting rivals.

"Nebraska doesn't show you around like a herd of cattle," Parsons said. "I had my own personal visit with Coach Osborne, Coach Melton, Boyd Epley, Ursula Walsh.

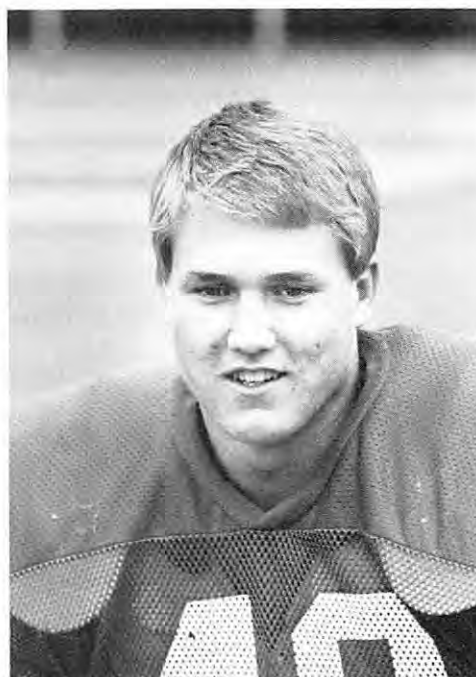
"I even had a 45-minute visit with George Sullivan and Jerry Weber. Trainers are the ones who take care of you for four years and Nebraska's the only school that even introduces them to you."

Parsons also had a 45-minute visit with an accounting professor in the College of Business Administration. "He was a Big Red fan," Parsons said. "That impressed me."

Before he arrived on campus, Parsons called Osborne "the antithesis of the stereotype head football coach. He's too afraid to lie to you."

Parsons believes the players return that respect on the field. "I've always thought Nebraska wore those uniforms with a certain amount of pride," he said. "It's like they've earned something and they're going to fulfill that commitment."

This spring, Marc Munford and Kevin Parsons wore their uniforms with the



Munford

old recruiting coordinator.

"I've followed college football all my life and I can't think of anything more exciting than wearing the red and white of Nebraska," he said on the eve of national letter of intent day.

"Playing football in front of 76,000 red nuts...I just don't see how you can beat that for a high," he said. "I'm completely sold on the place. At Nebraska, they do it right or they don't do it at all."

Parsons applied that premise from the facilities to the fans. "I got over 200 letters from Nebraska fans," he recalled. "I got 'em from little old ladies to bank presidents — from Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Atlanta, Georgia. That's how diverse it was."

"That might not mean anything to some

Forch



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The fullback stops here! Freshman line-backer Marc Munford (41) wraps up the ball carrier in the Red-White game.

same pride and the same commitment.

In the last major scrimmage before the spring game, Rob Stuckey got a chance to see that commitment up close. Nebraska's Academic All-American defensive tackle hyperextended an elbow on the fifth play of the scrimmage and watched from the sidelines the rest of the day.

He didn't like the injury, but he enjoyed the view. It opened a veteran's eyes to the enthusiasm gushing out of two freshmen linebackers.

"Are they ever tough," Stuckey said. "They were really popping people out

there. It was fun just watching them play."

Parsons admits he felt an attitudinal renaissance sweep through the Husker defense this spring.

"It's just the kind of thing that happens with great athletes," he said. "When you have great athletes who want to have a great defense, they're going to do whatever it takes."

During the spring, that meant everyone pulling in the same direction — veterans with their jobs on the line and rookies with their eyes on those jobs.

The atmosphere was healthy, not hos-

tile. "It's not a spoken thing," Parsons said. "I never said it and no one ever said it to me. But everyone knows how important it is to have a good defense and everyone knows it has to be done as a team."

"We didn't have anyone really jump out this spring, but the job always got done," Parsons said. "That's the way you win on defense. You can't win as individuals. Defense is strictly team. Sure, there are rivalries. But everyone wants to achieve so badly, we all want the best guys there."

The pressure is rooted to an increased sense of pride. "It's not that we have a bad offense," Parsons said. "We may have the best offense in the Big Eight again next year. But we're not going to score 65 points a game."

The key is an increased emphasis on defense and Melton insists Munford and Parsons are a major part of that emphasis. "They're big, they're aggressive and they're intelligent," he said. "And they both use their speed to fly to the football."

According to Melton, that's all he can ask. "Munford had a heckuva battle with Daum," he said. "And all Parsons needs is a little experience. They'll be a little green next fall. They're going to make a lot of mistakes. But they'll learn their drops, their keys and their check calls. I've got faith in all three of those young kids."

So does Rod Smith, Nebraska's sophomore split end who is headed for a redshirt season this fall.

Smith is Munford's roommate, one of Parson's closest friends and an admirer of Forch.

"Marc is a great athlete. He's so easy-going, he won't have trouble making the transition to starter at all," Smith said. "It's no big deal to him. He'll take it as it comes. He's not one to let ink or pressure get to him. He'll just play football and let everything take care of itself."

Parsons, a more intense individual, "will also succeed," Smith said, "because his frame of mind will allow him to accomplish anything. He's sound. He's got a good base for all his actions and it happens to be God. You can't come up with a better foundation than that."

Smith is just as eager to see how Forch fits into the overall picture this fall. "He's an aggressive young man. He has a wild hair about him. He's very spontaneous," Smith said. "I expect him to be right there in the thick of the battle."

Harrison Adds Thrills In Running The Bases

Once they manage to get on base against this Husker freshman, the fun has just begun against the southpaw pitcher!

By Mike Babcock

The scene was repeated many times this season during the games Phil Harrison pitched for the Nebraska baseball team.

A batter reaches first base on a hit or, more often, a walk and takes a short lead against the freshman left-hander from Glendora, Calif. Harrison stretches, kicks his right leg and fires the ball, not to home plate but rather to first baseman Mike Duncan.

The baserunner is frozen by Harrison's deception. With not so much as a passing complaint about a balk, the embarrassed runner returns to the dugout. "I like setting up runners," said Harrison, who picked off more than 30 during his first collegiate season.

In the fifth inning of a 6-4 victory over Missouri Western, he picked off the maximum — three runners.

Harrison, who admitted he was frustrated by his own wildness in the game, walked the first batter in the inning and immediately left him standing, three strides from the base.

The second batter also walked. When Harrison snapped a throw to Duncan, the runner froze for an instant then broke for

second base, where he was tagged out.

The third batter, a catcher, singled through the middle of the infield and was replaced by a courtesy runner, who apparently hadn't learned much from those preceding him. The third out went from Harrison to Duncan to second baseman Kurt Eubanks.

"That's 'Philly' for you," Cornhusker

Is he comin' home, or going to first? Husker baseball foes have had problems figuring Phil Harrison's move when runners are on base, and it's helped him to a school record number of victories.

third baseman Scott Hooper said. Harrison's teammates quickly became accustomed to the pickoffs.

"I've never seen that before," said Nebraska head coach John Sanders. "It was interesting, to say the least."

Harrison wasted little time in establishing himself as one of the better young college pitchers in the country. Efforts like three pickoffs in one inning became commonplace. By season's end, he was included in *Baseball America* newspaper's bi-weekly All-American up-date.

In late April, he pitched a seven-inning one-hitter against Creighton, shutting out the Bluejays in Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium. The Bluejays' only base hit was





Harrison delivers to the plate.

a two-out, bloop single in the bottom of the fifth inning, by the No. 9 batter in the order.

"I've had no-hitters and one-hitters before," Harrison said afterward. "It didn't make any difference to me whether it was a one-hitter or a no-hitter as long as I felt like I pitched a decent game."

The Creighton victory was Harrison's 10th and broke Nebraska's single-season record of nine, set by left-hander Cliff Faust in 1980.

Harrison's primary goal this season was earning an opportunity to pitch, not breaking records. It appeared he would be a short reliever when spring practice began, giving Nebraska a left-hander to go with right-hander Bill McGuire, who divided his time between catching and pitching after a freshman season in which he only caught.

During the Cornhuskers' spring trip to Hawaii, Harrison was given the opportunity to start, and he responded with a 6-3, complete-game victory over Liberty Baptist.

"During fall practice, I thought I could do the job and be a reliever, but I wasn't effective doing that when we went on our spring trip," Harrison said. "I wasn't doing the job as well as I should. Once I became a starter, I felt totally in control."

He followed the Liberty Baptist effort with another complete game, beating Missouri 7-2 in the Big Eight-opening series at Columbia, Mo. Harrison was nearly perfect for seven of the nine innings he worked against the Tigers; he didn't allow a baserunner until yielding his only walk of the game with two out in the fifth inning.

Missouri didn't get its first hit until two were out in the seventh inning, and the Tigers didn't score until the ninth, after he had begun to tire, on a cold, damp day. "The last two innings I was trying to be too fine," said Harrison, who struck out nine.

His desire to strike out batters was Harrison's main flaw in his first collegiate season. He averaged nearly one strikeout and one walk per inning.

Harrison traces that problem to a relief appearance against Southern California on the Cornhuskers' spring trip to the west coast and Hawaii. "I got overconfident," Harrison said. He thought he could overpower the Trojans' All-American and Olympic first baseman Mark McGwire. "That's when I started throwing hard and walking people."

"I wanted to do it all by myself, and I couldn't," he said. His inability to come in and throw strikes was one of the reasons he was given a chance to start by the Cornhuskers' first-year pitching coach Mike Evans.

Relief pitchers have to be able to come on and throw strikes, and Harrison's occasional bouts with wildness merely complicated the problems a reliever is supposed to solve.

Ironically, Harrison was the No. 4 high school pitcher on Nebraska's recruiting list a year ago. He was offered a scholarship after the first three signed professional contracts.

"I thought I'd probably go to a junior college," said Harrison, who "knew Nebraska had three other pitchers (signed to letters-of-intent) who had been drafted."

Despite an outstanding high school

career, both as a pitcher and hitter (he batted .468 as a senior) Harrison wasn't drafted. Evans says because southern California produces so many quality athletes, Harrison was overlooked.

Harrison agrees, noting that Steve Bast, a left-handed pitcher at rival Damien High School in Upland, Calif., had a comparable prep career and was taken in the third round of the major league draft by the California Angels. However, Bast did not sign with the Angels; he chose to turn down nearly \$80,000 and attend USC instead.

In his first start at Glendora High School, as a junior, Harrison pitched a no-hit shutout, an accomplishment he repeated in the final game of the regular season. His record that year was 12-1, with the only loss coming in the quarterfinals of post-season tournament play.

Harrison pitched another no-hitter during his senior year and finished his prep career with five one-hitters. He had an 8-3 pitching record as a senior. "I concentrated more on my hitting," he said.

If there was one thing Harrison missed when he got to Nebraska, it was the opportunity to swing a bat. He doesn't remember being bothered by the many pressures which typically make a college freshman's first semester miserable.

Even though he was a long way from home, he kept too busy to be homesick. With classes and the start of fall practice, he never had time to look back. "The most difficult adjustment in moving out here from California was not being able to hit," said Harrison.

"I kept it to myself, but something inside always bugged me when I watched everybody else hitting."

Because of the designated hitter rule in college baseball, pitchers are rarely allowed to bat, and Harrison was no exception, even though he was an all-state selection in high school both for his pitching and his hitting. "It bugged me a lot," he said.

"I know I can't hit in the big games now." But that doesn't stop him from stepping into the batting cage. Whenever there's a delay during batting practice, "I put on a helmet, grab a bat and jump in there," said Harrison.

His purpose is two-fold. He gets to take some swings, definitely a good feeling, and he tries to advertise his skill with a bat. He knows NU head Coach John Sanders is watching, and "I might just put something in the back of his mind," Harrison said.

Baseball wasn't Harrison's only sport in high school. He was a starting linebacker and "fullback on power plays" for the

football team. He weighed 210 pounds during the fall, dropped down to 185 for baseball and arrived at Nebraska weighing 207.

Nebraska's initial interest in Harrison and outfielder Dave Turney, another athlete from Glendora, Calif., was, in part, through the urging of Cornhusker booster Otto Baumann, founder of the Californians for Nebraska alumni organization and a resident of Glendora.

However, Baumann refuses to take credit for the discovery of Harrison or Turney, who transferred to Nebraska from Mount San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif.

According to Baumann, the twin nieces of former Nebraska football defensive back Zaven Yarian were high school classmates of Harrison, though "I think a younger sister was the one really in love with Phil," Baumann said with a smile.

Word of Harrison's pitching skills traveled quickly, and Baumann regularly attended his games in order to put in a good word or two for Nebraska.

Baumann also put in a good word or two for Harrison whenever the NU coaches would visit California to watch him pitch. "Otto would ask them if they were going to let me hit...at least, that's what Otto told me."

Former NU pitching coach Ray Tromba, another southern Californian, "really believed in Phil," said Sanders. "Ray thought all along Harrison could be a bulldog. He called all the shots on Harrison."

Harrison wanted to attend Nebraska from the first but didn't make his official recruiting visit to the campus until well after the season was over. By then, the Cornhuskers had lost three top pitching recruits to professional teams.

Brian Holman, a right-hander from North High School in Wichita, Kan., was a first-round draft pick of the Montreal Expos and signed with them after much deliberation.

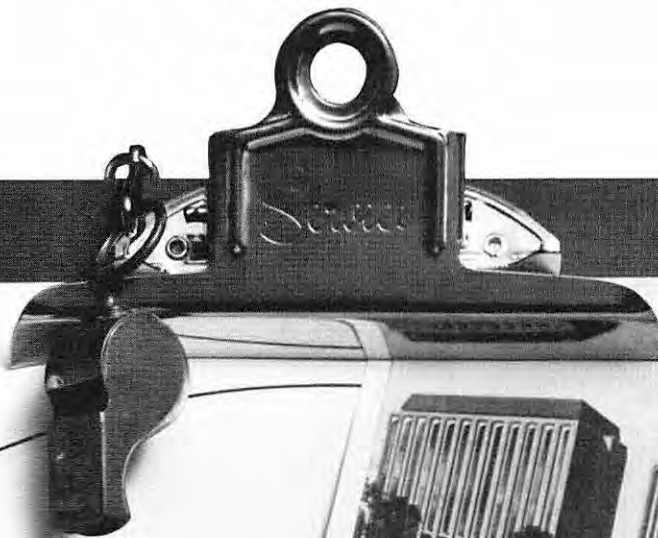
Bill Wilkinson, a left-hander out of Cherry Creek High in Englewood, Colo., signed with the Seattle Mariners as a fourth-round pick, and immediately established himself as one of the top minor league prospects in the country.

Troy Tomsick, a right-hander from Ranum High School in Denver, went to the Atlanta Braves after being picked in the 17th round.

Although Harrison didn't know the names of the pitchers to whom Nebraska had committed scholarships, "the (NU) coaches kept me informed," he said. "They told me to hang tight, that they were still interested in me. They said it still might work out. I figured they were on the level."

They were, and it did work out. After Holman, Wilkinson and Tomsick had

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signed, "Nebraska called and asked me if I wanted to be a Cornhusker." Harrison, who made only the one major college recruiting visit, didn't wait for the question to be repeated. Now, "I'm glad I'm here."

His father, a body shop manager, is glad, too. Naturally, he's one of his son's biggest fans. "My dad calls me every weekend and says, 'I just want to tell you again, Phil, you're with a class act,'" Harrison said.

The 6-1, 197-pound Harrison added some class to the Cornhuskers' act, joining senior right-hander Jeff Anderson as Nebraska's top two pitchers. The NU staff ranked among the best in the nation in earned-run average throughout most of the season.

"The No. 1 thing I like about Phil is that he's never complained about the weather here," said Evans. "Of course, I'd kick him off the team if he ever did."

Harrison's success has been the result of two pitches: a fastball, clocked consistently at nearly 90 miles per hour, and a slider. He doesn't have much variety, but "he keeps 'em guessing," McGuire said.

Harrison "can be overpowering," Evans said.

Harrison got the first shutout of his collegiate career at the expense of Kansas State, yielding four hits, walking five and striking out 12. Four of the Wildcat outs came on pickoffs.

Surprisingly, he concentrated on improving his pickoff move during his freshman season. He's gotten better.

When he arrived at Nebraska, he found that Cornhusker Jeff Koenigsmann, a junior left-hander out of Omaha Creighton Prep, "had a better move. So my goal was to have a pickoff as good or better than Jeff's," said Harrison.

The record shows he succeeded. But if you've still got some doubts, talk to Missouri Western about it.

Big Eight

Continued from Page 35

an All-Big Eight running back, he isn't even a certain starter. The defense has great tackles in Leslie O'Neal and Rodney Harding and an potentially outstanding free safety in Adam Hinds.

4. Missouri (7-5). If the Tigers had reversed their last-second 21-17 loss to BYU in the Holiday Bowl, more premium would be placed on their 14 returning starters. Surprisingly, preseason All-Big Eight quarterback favorite Marlon Adler finished the spring behind Warren Seitz. Insiders insist it's a sign of amazing strength, not disappointment. Missouri's biggest problem may be a non-conference schedule that includes Illinois, Notre Dame, Wisconsin and Mississippi State.

5. Kansas (4-6-1). Once the Jayhawks decide who's their No. 1 quarterback, they may be the best of the rest in the Big Eight. The battle is between Mike Orth, a 6-4 sophomore, and Mike Norseth, a 6-3 junior college transfer who passed for more than 4,000 yards at Snow, Utah. KU Coach Mike Gottfried hopes to redshirt one of the two quarterbacks.

6. Iowa State (4-7). Despite losing record-setting quarterback David Archer, Jim Criner's Cyclones figure to move the yardsticks. Alex Espinoza, one-time quarterback starter at Cal State-Fullerton, is the heir apparent and has quality receivers in flanker Tracy Henderson and tight end Dave Smoldt.

7. Kansas State (3-8). Don't be surprised if the Wildcats are the fifth best team in the league. They have as much right to that distinction as anyone else. Actually, they should have an edge, considering the return of quarterback Stan Weber. He didn't start until mid-season against Nebraska and the scoring and yardage totals doubled. Depth, though, is K-State's biggest liability.... as usual.

8. Colorado (4-7). The Buffs' off-the-field problems of last year continued when wide receiver Loy Alexander quit the team in the final days of spring practice. Alexander was the league's fifth-leading receiver with 39 catches for 557 yards and six touchdowns last year. If that isn't enough, CU must play UCLA, Notre Dame, Michigan State and Oregon during the non-conference season.

1984 Big 8 Schedules

COLORADO

Sept. 8 — Michigan State
Sept. 15 — at Oregon
Sept. 22 — at Notre Dame
Sept. 29 — UCLA
Oct. 6 — at Missouri
Oct. 13 — Iowa State
Oct. 20 — Nebraska
Oct. 27 — at Oklahoma State
Nov. 3 — Kansas
Nov. 10 — Oklahoma
Nov. 17 — at Kansas State

IOWA STATE

Sept. 8 — at Iowa
Sept. 15 — Drake
Sept. 22 — at Texas A&M
Sept. 29 — West Texas State
Oct. 6 — at Kansas
Oct. 13 — at Colorado
Oct. 20 — Oklahoma
Oct. 27 — at Missouri
Nov. 3 — Nebraska
Nov. 10 — Kansas State
Nov. 17 — at Oklahoma State

KANSAS

Sept. 8 — Wichita State

Sept. 15 — Florida State
Sept. 22 — at Vanderbilt
Sept. 29 — at North Carolina
Oct. 6 — Iowa State
Oct. 13 — at Kansas State
Oct. 20 — at Oklahoma State
Oct. 27 — Oklahoma
Nov. 3 — at Colorado
Nov. 10 — Nebraska
Nov. 17 — at Missouri

KANSAS STATE

Sept. 8 — at Vanderbilt
Sept. 15 — Tennessee Tech
Sept. 22 — at Texas Christian
Sept. 29 — at Oklahoma
Oct. 6 — at South Carolina
Oct. 13 — Kansas
Oct. 20 — Missouri
Oct. 27 — at Nebraska
Nov. 3 — Oklahoma State
Nov. 10 — at Iowa State
Nov. 17 — Colorado

MISSOURI

Sept. 8 — at Illinois
Sept. 15 — Wisconsin
Sept. 22 — Mississippi State
Sept. 29 — Notre Dame
Oct. 6 — Colorado
Oct. 13 — at Nebraska
Oct. 20 — at Kansas State
Oct. 27 — Iowa State
Nov. 3 — at Oklahoma
Nov. 10 — at Oklahoma State
Nov. 17 — Kansas

NEBRASKA

Sept. 8 — Wyoming
Sept. 15 — Minnesota
Sept. 22 — at UCLA
Sept. 29 — at Syracuse
Oct. 6 — Oklahoma State
Oct. 13 — Missouri
Oct. 20 — at Colorado
Oct. 27 — Kansas State
Nov. 3 — at Iowa State
Nov. 10 — at Kansas
Nov. 17 — Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA

Sept. 8 — Stanford
Sept. 15 — at Pittsburgh
Sept. 22 — Baylor
Sept. 29 — at Kansas State
Oct. 6 — Open
Oct. 13 — Texas at Dallas
Oct. 20 — at Iowa State
Oct. 27 — at Kansas
Nov. 3 — Missouri
Nov. 10 — at Colorado
Nov. 17 — at Nebraska
Nov. 24 — Oklahoma State

OKLAHOMA STATE

Sept. 8 — at Arizona State
Sept. 15 — Bowling Green
Sept. 22 — San Diego State
Sept. 29 — at Tulsa
Oct. 6 — at Nebraska
Oct. 13 — Open
Oct. 20 — Kansas
Oct. 27 — Colorado
Nov. 3 — at Kansas State
Nov. 10 — Missouri
Nov. 17 — Iowa State
Nov. 24 — at Oklahoma